CITY HILIGHTS

The Truth Speaks

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RAFALE WILL NOW BE MADE IN INDIA!

INDIA-FRANCE RAFALE DEAL | ₹3.25 LAKH CR, 114 JETS, 60% MADE IN INDIA

BIGGEST DEFENCE DEAL SINCE INDEPENDENCE

NEW DELHI

India on Thursday cleared a major proposal worth Rs 3.25 lakh crore to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) from France, marking the biggest defence acquisition in the country's history.

The clearance was granted by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, which accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to the programme. The decision comes ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's forthcoming official visit to New Delhi.

Of the 114 jets, 96 are planned to be manufactured domestically with around 50% indigenous content, while 18 aircraft will be procured off-the-shelf from French defence manufacturer Dassault Aviation to meet the Indian Air Force's immediate operational needs.

The programme is designed to combine rapid capability enhancement with a long-term push for self-reliance in defence production.

Manufacturing a large portion of the jets in India is expected to give a substantial boost to the domestic aerospace ecosystem.

The deal will include the transfer of advanced fighter jet technology and will be structured as a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening the government's 'Make in India' programme.

Following the Defence Ministry's approval, the acquisition will require final clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

What's the deal?

Of the 114 jets, 90 will be manufactured domestically with around 50% indigenous content, while the remaining aircraft will be procured from France in fly-away condition to meet the IAF's immediate needs.

- The deal clearance was granted by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, which accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to the programme.
- It will eventually need clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- It includes facilitation of fleet maintenance, logistics support, and personnel training under an MRO.
- The deal has come through ahead of French President Emmanuel's three-day official Delhi next week for the *AI Impact Summit*

EXISTING RAFALE FLEET AND NAVAL VARIANT

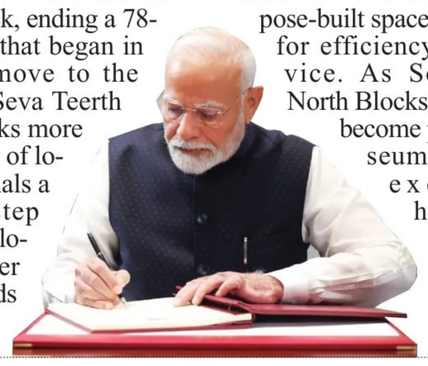
The Air Force currently operates 36 Rafale aircraft across two squadrons. The last delivery of the 'C' variant took place in December 2024.
In addition, India has ordered 26 Rafale 'M' variant aircraft for the Indian Navy in a deal valued at Rs 63,000 crore. These naval aircraft will operate from the aircraft carriers INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya.

India rewrites its 'power' address

PMO's 78-yr stint at South Block ends
Seva Teerth inauguration tomorrow

NEW DELHI

On January 14, Makar Sankranti, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will shift the PMO out of South Block, ending a 78-year chapter that began in 1947. The move to the newly built Seva Teerth complex marks more than a change of location. It signals a conscious step away from colonial-era power centres towards a governance framework rooted in Indian purpose.



Seva Teerth will house the PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, and NSCS in modern, purpose-built spaces designed for efficiency and service. As South and North Blocks prepare to become public museums, India's executive heart is being reshaped for the future.

BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj arrested

BENGALURU

BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj was arrested upon his arrival at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru on Thursday evening, hours after the Supreme Court denied him anticipatory bail in the Biklu Shiva murder case.

The KR Puram legislator was apprehended by a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) team around 7 pm and is being taken to the agency's headquarters on Palace Road for further procedures.

The CID is likely to produce him before a magistrate in Bengaluru later this evening and seek his custodial interrogation.

Basavaraj has been listed as accused number 5 in the FIR related to the murder of 40-year-old Shivakumar alias Biklu Shiva, a history-sheeter.

No CM discussion at AICC meet: DKS

NEW DELHI

Even as speculations remained rife about a possible change of power in Karnataka, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said the chief ministerial post was not discussed during his meeting with Congress leaders at the AICC on Thursday.

Addressing the media, he said the senior leaders will decide when it will be suitable for the state. "We were not discussing anything on this. The party has a vision. All our senior leaders will take the call whenever they find it suitable in favour of Karnataka," he said.

BJP MP moves motion to get Rahul disqualified from LS

NEW DELHI

BJP MP Nishikant Dubey has given notice for a "substantive motion" in the Lok Sabha against Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, which can theoretically lead to Gandhi's expulsion by majority vote.

Giving notice on Thursday, he sought a probe by a parliamentary panel into the Congress leader's "continual misdeeds for destabilizing the country", and demanded that he be expelled as an MP, plus be banned from polls for the rest of his life. He also accused Rahul of being "a major constituent of the Thuggery Gang to de-stabilise India from within".

Department of Kannada and Culture, Bangalore.
Department of Tourism, Bangalore and District Administration, Vijayanagar

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ One State, Many Worlds Department of Tourism

All are cordially invited

Inauguration by

Sri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Auspicious Presence of

Sri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka

Shri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan,
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare and Minister-in-charge of Vijayanagar and Bellary districts, inspecting the preparations for the main stage of Hampi Utsav 2026.

Hon'ble MPs of district, Hon'ble Members of Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council and all people representatives will take part on this occasion

Inauguration Ceremony
13.02.2026, Friday | At 6.00 pm
February 13, 14 and 15, 2026

Main Stage:
Sri M.P. Prakash Stage, Gayithri Peeth, Hampi

Parallel Stages:
Opp Basavanna Stage | Viroopaksheswara Temple Stage | Sasivekalu Ganapa Stage | Mananavami Dibba Stage

A Rasamanjari program by famous actors, actresses, music directors and playback singers from the Kannada film industry. A sound and light program by Vijayanagara Vaibhav at the Anelaya premises

Honourable Presence of

Shri B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare and Minister-in-charge of Vijayanagar and Bellary districts

Shri H.K. Patil
Hon'ble Minister of Law, Justice, Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs, Legislation and Tourism and Minister-in-charge of Gadag District

Shri Ramalinga Reddy
Hon'ble Minister for Transport & Muzarai and Minister-in-charge of Ramanagara District

Shri Thangadagi Shivaraj Sangappa
Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare and Kannada & Culture Department
Minister-in-charge Koppal District

Presided by:
Shri H.R. Gaviyappa
Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly
Vijayanagara Constituency

Special Programs:
Hampi by Sky | Exhibition of Bulls | Rangoli Competition | Fruit and flower display | Fish Fair | Boating | Symposium on Hampi History | Food fair | Drone demonstration | Rural Sports | Poetry concert | Kite Show | Youth concert Folk Channel

QUICK READ

Workers Stage Protest at Town Hall amid Bharat Bandh Call

BENGALURU

Trade unions across the country called for a Bharat Bandh on Thursday, but Karnataka witnessed a mixed response, with large-scale protests instead of a total shutdown. In Bengaluru, over 10 trade unions under the banner of the All India Trade Unions Federation staged a demonstration at Town Hall, voicing strong opposition to the government's labour policies. Police were initially reluctant to permit the protest in view of a High Court directive and made preparations to detain demonstrators. However, despite resistance and the threat of arrest, workers gathered in large numbers and carried out their protest peacefully.

Road Rage: Man Clings to Car Bonnet, Dragged for 1 km on Old Airport Rd

BENGALURU

In a shocking road-rage incident, a goods vehicle driver was dragged for nearly one kilometre while lying on the bonnet of a car on Old Airport Road. According to Ulsoor police, the episode began after the car allegedly brushed against the goods vehicle, prompting its driver to demand immediate compensation for damages. A heated argument ensued, and when the car owner refused to pay, the goods vehicle driver climbed onto the bonnet in protest. Angered, the car driver continued driving for about a kilometre before the man jumped off as the vehicle slowed down. Police are investigating.

Illegal Building Demolished by Corporation

BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Central Corporation (BMC) has initiated action against illegal constructions in the city, demolishing a building erected in violation of the approved plan and building bylaws. Officials said discrepancies in the structure were identified during inspections, prompting the civic body to issue notices to the owners. As the violations were not rectified and the premises were not vacated voluntarily, the Central Municipal Corporation (CMC) proceeded with enforcement measures. Authorities stated that the drive will continue across the city to ensure compliance with building regulations and to curb unauthorised constructions.

Surge in Cotton Imports Triggers Alarm over Farmers' Livelihoods

Pointing to Karnataka's performance, he said the state recorded the highest yield in the south, surpassing the national average

BENGALURU

Concerns over rising cotton imports and growing distress among domestic cultivators echoed in the Lok Sabha, with Raichur MP Kumar Naik highlighting the mounting challenges faced by cotton farmers, particularly in Karnataka.

Raising the issue during Question Hour, Naik noted that although India is the world's second-largest cotton producer after China, with Brazil close behind, domestic growers are grappling with uncertainty despite the expansion of procurement under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme. He pointed out that Karnataka has recorded the highest cotton yield in southern India, surpassing the national average, yet farmers remain under severe stress.

Naik flagged a sharp spike in cotton imports, stating that government data shows imports from Brazil surged by over 1,000 percent year-on-year over the past two years. Imports from the United States also rose by nearly 200 percent during the same period. He argued that such a dramatic increase is undermining domestic producers and exerting downward pressure on prices.

Highlighting the ground reality, Naik said farmers are battling falling market prices, rising input costs, and persistent policy uncertainty. "If this trend continues, we risk becoming heavily dependent on imports, weakening our farmers and compromising long-term agricultural security," he warned. He added that cotton-growing districts such as Kalaburagi, Raichur and Yadgir possess significant potential, provided they receive stronger institutional backing and policy stability.

Responding to the concerns, Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh assured the House that the Centre remains committed to safeguarding farmers' interests. He said MSP is fixed based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), along with inputs from state governments and assessments of production costs, ensuring farmers receive at least 1.5 times the cost of production.

For the 2025–26 season, the MSP for cotton has been set between Rs 7,710 and Rs 8,110 per quintal, depending on quality—an increase of Rs 589 per quintal over the previous year. Singh added that 571 procurement centres have been opened across 149 districts in 11 cotton-growing states, and more than 90.5 lakh bales have been procured so far.

On import policy, the Minister clarified that the 11 percent import duty on cotton was temporarily exempted between August and December 2025 but was reintroduced in January 2026. However, Naik maintained that the temporary duty relief had adverse consequences, as domestic cotton prices crashed amid global tariff pressures, intensifying distress among farmers.

US-Returned Techie Held for Killing Navy Veteran Father, Dentist Mother

BENGALURU

A 33-year-old US-returned software engineer has been arrested for allegedly stabbing his parents to death at their villa in Vignan Nagar near HAL township in east Bengaluru. The accused, Rohan Chandra Bhat, is the son of retired Navy captain Naveen Chandra Bhat (60) and dentist Dr Shyamala Bhat (55), who lived in Adarsh Vista.

According to police, the incident occurred around 8 am following a heated argument over financial support for Rohan's startup venture. Preliminary investigations suggest that he repeatedly stabbed his parents during the altercation. Neighbours, alerted by screams from the house, rushed to the spot and shifted the grievously injured couple to Manipal Hospitals on Old Airport Road, where doctors declared them brought dead.

A complaint was lodged by neighbour Dr Madhavi Nair, who works at Manipal Hospitals. HAL police have registered a case and arrested the accused. Police sources said Rohan had worked as a software engineer in the United States and returned to Bengaluru about three years ago. While details of his overseas employment are being verified, officers said he had been working independently on technology projects and was keen to scale them up. Investigators believe he had been pressuring his parents for funds after facing difficulties in raising capital. The elderly couple reportedly expressed their inability to meet his financial demands. Police are probing further to ascertain the sequence of events and any additional motives behind the crime.

Consumer Panel Cracks Down on Mandatory Service Charge, Warns of ₹50,000 Penalty

BENGALURU

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has tightened its crackdown on restaurants that levy service charges without customer consent, warning that such practices amount to unfair trade practices and can attract penalties of up to ₹50,000.

In a recent directive, the CCPA reiterated that service charges must remain optional and that diners have the right to refuse payment if the charge is added to the bill without explicit consent. The move follows a rise in complaints from customers across the country alleging that restaurants routinely and casually include mandatory service charges without prior disclosure.

Acting on complaints received through the National Consumer Helpline — supported by invoices showing compulsory service charges — the authority initiated suo motu proceedings against 27 restaurants nationwide. On February 4, it also pulled up a prominent food chain for imposing such charges. The CCPA stated that the practice

violates Section 2(47) of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, which defines unfair trade practices.

Customers have largely welcomed the directive, asserting that tips should reflect service quality and not be imposed as a compulsion.

However, hotel and restaurant associations have expressed reservations. G.K. Shetty, President of the Karnataka State Hotels' Association, said service charges were introduced to ensure equitable distribution of tips among all staff, including kitchen and housekeeping personnel. "Globally, service charges of 10 to 20 per cent are common. We kept it at 5 per cent. The ₹50,000 penalty is a heavy burden amid rising operational costs. We remove the charge if a guest objects," he said, adding that the association plans to seek suitable modifications from the government.

P.M. Ananth Narayan, head of the Bengaluru chapter of the National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI), said the body is contesting the issue in court. Meanwhile, Hatti Kaapi founder U.S. Mahendra termed the

Sisters Fake Kidnap to Skip School, Trigger Police Hunt

BENGALURU

What began as a chilling report of a daylight kidnapping in Chamarajpet ended in an unexpected confession after police discovered that two schoolgirls had staged the entire episode to skip classes.

The sisters, aged 14 and 8, students of a private school, were dropped near their campus around 8.20 am on Monday. Shortly after, they left their school bags behind and disappeared. When their grandfather visited the school around 8.45 am, he found they had not attended classes. Teachers confirmed their absence, prompting a frantic search by family members across the school premises and nearby streets. With no trace of the children, the family approached Chamarajpet police to file a complaint. Even as officers began initiating action, the girls' father received a call from an unknown number. His elder daughter informed him that both sisters were near home and were calling from a passer-by's phone. The family rushed back and found the girls safe. However, the relief was short-lived. Questioned about their absence, the elder sister narrated a dramatic tale involving a four-member gang, a car, forcible abduction, injections that rendered them unconscious, and even two women accomplices. She claimed they were given Rs 60 and warned to cooperate when the gang returned the following week. Taking the allegation seriously, police registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and launched an investigation.. . The footage showed the sisters casually walking around the neighbourhood, unharmed and unhurried. Confronted with the evidence, the girls broke down and admitted they had fabricated the story to avoid attending school. Police have counselled the family and advised them to ensure closer supervision.

TELEHEALTH BOOSTS ACCESS TO SEXUAL CARE

BENGALURU

Doctors caution that teleconsultation cannot replace in-person medical care, especially for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy complications, or genital infections that require physical examination and direct clinical management.

The growing adoption of telehealth services in the city's hospitals is transforming access to sexual and reproductive healthcare, offering women and queer individuals a more private and judgement-free platform to seek medical advice. Widely introduced after the pandemic, teleconsultations have since seen a steady rise, with doctors reporting an increase in pregnancy-related queries and requests for contraceptive guidance. "Most online consultations are audio calls and relate to pregnancy concerns, gynaecological issues, or symptoms such as genital rashes. However, advice regarding emergency contraception is predominant," said Dr Meghana Reddy Jetty, Senior Consultant in Obstetrics, Gynaecology, Laparoscopy and Aesthetic Gynaecology at Aster Whitefield Hospital. She added that she receives at least two to three such calls daily. Increasingly, male partners are also reaching out for guidance on emergency contraception. "We do not prescribe medication without the patient being present. We only offer guidance during such calls," she clarified.

With Bengaluru's traffic making hospital visits time-consuming, many patients prefer an initial teleconsultation to understand their condition and treatment options before travelling. Doctors say sexual and reproductive health concerns are deeply personal, and telemedicine reduces hesitation among first-time patients. "Some women worry that doctors may be judgemental. Teleconsultations allow them to speak from the comfort of their homes, especially when it is the first time they are opening up," said Dr Manisha Singh, Additional Director, Gynaecologist and Sub-specialist in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at Fortis Hospital, Bannerghatta Road. Telemedicine has also widened access beyond city limits. Specialists in Bengaluru are now consulting patients from districts across Karnataka, other states, and even abroad. Dr Manisha recalled a couple from a remote part of Andhra Pradesh who underwent a completely remote fertility consultation. "With support from a local clinic that followed my treatment plan, the woman conceived and delivered a healthy baby boy. I met them only 1.5 years later when they visited with the child," she said. Doctors note that teleconsultations are particularly beneficial for queer individuals who may fear discrimination in conventional healthcare settings. "They commonly seek advice on hormonal therapy, sexual health screening, mental health support, gender-affirming care and relationship counselling," said Dr Nivedita Jha, Senior Consultant, Obstetrician and Gynaecologist at Sparsh Hospital, Infantry Road.

SC Verdict Shields Karnataka from Massive Payout in Irrigation Projects

BENGALURU

In a significant relief to the Karnataka government and the state-run Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited (KNNL), the Supreme Court has allowed 530 appeals in land acquisition cases linked to major infrastructure works, including the Upper Krishna Basin Project and the Singatalur Lift Irrigation Project in north Karnataka.

A bench comprising Justices M.M. Sundresh and Satish Chandra Sharma delivered the ruling while deciding a batch of appeals involving a common question of law under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The judgment also covers similar appeals filed by Bihar and Maharashtra in connection with highway projects.

Clarifying the legal position, the apex court held that Section 24(1)(a) of the 2013 Act applies to all cases where awards were passed after the Act came into force. It directed that such awards must be governed by the provisions of the 2013 Act, except in matters relating to rehabilitation and resettlement entitlements. The court further ruled that first appeals before high courts must be treated under Section 74 of the 2013 Act and not under Section 54 of the old Land Acquisition Act of 1894.

The ruling carries major financial implications for Karnataka, with public funds running into several tens of thousands of crores of rupees effectively safeguarded.

The dispute arose after landowners approached reference courts seeking enhanced compensation, and in several instances were granted substantial increases over the amounts fixed by land acquisition officers. The state contended that many such enhancements were excessive and not in line with prevailing market values. However, appeals filed by the government were dismissed by the high court citing delays beyond 120 days. The Supreme Court's decision now paves the way for adjudication of these cases on merits.

BUS SAFETY CONCERNS

State-Run Buses Account for 60% Accidents in 3 Years

BENGALURU

The state recorded 5,777 cases of buses being driven rashly and causing accidents between 2023 and 2025, averaging nearly 160 cases a month, according to transport department data. More than 60 per cent of these accidents involved state-run buses, raising fresh concerns about passenger safety. The issue gained attention after a private sleeper bus travelling from Shivamogga to Bengaluru caught fire last week, sparking a debate in the Legislative Council. Data indicates that only two bus fire incidents have been reported in the past three years — one in Chitradurga on December 25 last year that claimed eight lives, and another in Shivamogga on January 27, where all passengers survived.

During the discussion, MLC Kishore Kumar Puttur alleged that sleeper buses are often misused for transporting cargo, including inflammable materials, endangering innocent passengers. He claimed that luggage is openly loaded inside buses and even stacked on rooftops, a practice commonly seen at locations such as Anandrao Circle in Bengaluru. "For greed and to evade transport taxes, inflammable items like cylinders, paint and crackers are ferried in passenger buses. Oblivious passengers travelling home for holidays risk losing their lives," he said. Responding to the concerns, Transport Minister R. Ramalinga Reddy said bus owners and operators were recently briefed on the National Human Rights Commission's 10-point safety guidelines. He added that it was recommended to install public announcement systems in buses to inform passengers about safety measures. The minister also stated that department staff screen luggage transported in KSRTC buses to prevent violations.

With Rare Disease Treatment Stalled, Children Left in Limbo

BENGALURU

For families of children with rare diseases, the past two years have been marked by uncertainty and despair as treatment access in Karnataka remains stalled.

"We visited over a dozen MLAs, MPs and ministers seeking the restart of rare disease treatment, but our efforts were in vain. Treating Gaucher costs over ₹3.5 lakh a month," said Vasanth and Seetharama Shetty, parents of two boys aged 4.5 and 8, at an event organised by the Organisation for Rare Diseases India (ORDI).

Gaucher disease is a genetic disorder caused by a missing enzyme, leading to the accumulation of fatty substances in the spleen, liver and bones. Vasanth said he even appealed to Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao for mercy killing, saying it was heartbreaking to watch his child suffer without treatment.

Treatment under the National Policy for Rare Diseases (NPRD)-2021 has largely stopped in the state after central funds failed to reach designated centres such as the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health.

Muted response to Bharat Bandh in Vijayapura district

Protesters marched to Deputy Commissioner's office, submitted memorandum, and demanded withdrawal of alleged draconian Central laws

VIJAYAPURA

Central trade unions and farmers' organizations on Thursday called for a nationwide Bharat Bandh opposing the new labour codes and the proposed India–USA trade agreement. Ten central trade unions — INTUC, AITUC, HMS, CITU, AIUTUC, TUCC, SEWA, AICCTU, LPF, and UTUC — participated in the strike.

However, the bandh received a muted response in Vijayapura district, with normal life largely unaffected.

Protesters marched on foot from Siddheshwar Temple to the Deputy Commissioner's office, where they submitted a memorandum outlining their demands. During the demonstration, they raised slogans against the Central Government and urged it to withdraw what they termed "draconian laws."

Despite the nationwide call, public transport services operated as usual from the morning, and shops and commercial establishments functioned without disruption across the district.

HC allows limited worship at Ladle Mashak Dargah in Aland

KALABURAGI

After Siddaramaiah Hiremath's petition for Mahashivratri worship, the court allowed only him, among fifteen Hindu leaders, to perform puja at the site, granting partial relief

The Kalaburagi divisional bench of the High Court has allowed a petitioner to offer prayers to a Shivalinga located inside the Ladle Mashak Dargah in Aland town, while restricting others from accessing the site unless cleared by local authorities.

The order came after Siddaramaiah Hiremath filed a petition seeking permission to worship during Mahashivratri. Hiremath requested that a group of fifteen Hindu leaders be allowed to perform worship, stating it was a long-standing tradition at the site. After reviewing the case, the court gave partial relief, allowing only Hiremath to conduct prayers.

The bench also instructed that if others apply to pray at the Shivalinga, the district administration must review these requests and decide according to the law. Officials are expected to balance religious rights with public safety and communal harmony.

Worship has been permitted within a set timeframe, from 2 pm to 6 pm, to manage the event in an orderly manner. Authorities believe this schedule will help prevent any untoward incidents.

Recognizing the sensitivity of the site, the court asked the district administration and police to provide adequate security for the petitioner. It also warned that strict action will be taken against anyone disrupting peace or violating rules.

The Ladle Mashak Dargah, known for its historical and cultural importance, has occasionally seen overlapping religious claims. This has made heightened vigilance necessary, especially during festivals like Mahashivratri, when large crowds are expected.

Legal experts say the decision balances the petitioner's right to worship with the need for public order, placing further responsibility on local authorities. District officials are preparing a detailed security plan, including crowd management and preventive measures, to ensure celebrations proceed peacefully.

Community leaders have urged residents to respect the ruling, cooperate with authorities, and avoid spreading rumors. With preparations underway, the focus remains on smooth worship while maintaining harmony in the region.

ASHA Workers Stage Protest in Jamkhandi Over Pending Demands

BAGALKOT

ASHA workers, along with members of the All India United Trade Union Center (AIUTUC), staged a protest in front of the Taluk Administration Building in Jamkhandi city, demanding the fulfillment of various long-pending demands. The protesters urged the state government to implement the promise made in 2025 to provide a monthly honorarium of ₹10,000. They also called for the implementation of four labour codes in the state and sought employee status for Anganwadi hot meal workers.

During the demonstration, participants raised slogans against the Central Government's agricultural, labour, and economic policies. The protesters later submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah through the Jamkhandi Assistant Commissioner.

10th Standard Student Dies by Suicide in Navodaya Hostel

BIDAR

A tragic incident has been reported from the Navodaya Hostel in Narayanpur village of Basavakalyan taluk, where a 10th standard student allegedly died by suicide.

The deceased has been identified as Sharath (16), son of Parameshwar and a resident of Manthal village in Basavakalyan taluk. He was staying at the hostel while pursuing his secondary education.

Sharath was found dead in his hostel room. Authorities recovered a brief note from the spot that reportedly read, "Sorry Mummy, Papa… I love you" and "Keep smiling forever."

The exact reason behind the extreme step is yet to be ascertained. The incident has sent shockwaves through the hostel, leaving family members, classmates, and local residents in deep grief.

Police have registered a case and initiated an investigation to determine the circumstances leading to the incident.

Anganwadi Workers Demand Increase in Honorarium in Bidar

BIDAR

Anganwadi workers in Bidar district have intensified their demand for an increase in honorarium, alleging that their wages have remained unchanged for several years despite their continued service.

District Anganwadi CIT President Sushila stated that the workers have been serving under the Central Government for many years and have not received any honorarium hike since 2008. "For the past two years, we have been fighting for our rights. Even as many workers continue their duties up to the age of 50, there has been no revision in pay," she said.

She further informed that Anganwadi workers, along with ASHA workers, panchayat staff, and members of various unions across Karnataka, are planning a road show and a statewide protest to press for their demands.

Warning of intensified agitation, Sushila said that if the government fails to address their concerns, the workers will stage a sit-in protest (satyagraha) in front of Members of Parliament. "An increase in honorarium would provide much-needed relief. Otherwise, we will continue our struggle for our rights. Many workers are facing injustice and hardship,"

Swamiji alleges insult to Urilinga Peddi Sharanas, writes to CM

BIDAR

Sri Panchakshari Swamiji, Peethadhipati of Belur Math in Hulsur taluk of Bidar district, has expressed strong displeasure alleging that the state government has insulted Urilinga Peddi Sharanas. He has written a letter to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking action in the matter.

The Swamiji objected to an advertisement issued by the Department of Kannada and Culture for the Kayaka Utsava celebration scheduled on the 10th, terming it "objectionable" and "baseless." He raised concerns over the depiction of Urilinga Peddi Sharanas in the advertisement.

Questioning the use of an image allegedly portraying the Sharana in a manner resembling a thief secretly observing the Lingadeeksha ritual, he asked whether it was appropriate to insult a revered Sharana who belonged to the Dalit community.

He also objected to the publication of what he described as an unauthenticated image showing a bundle on the shoulder and sought to know what message the government intended to convey through such representation. Portraying the Sharana like a thief is inappropriate and unacceptable, he stated.

The Swamiji further said that proper research had not been conducted on Urilinga Peddi Sharanas and advised the government to consult religious heads if accurate information was lacking. Noting that hundreds of mutts are associated with the Sharana and that he authored more than 260 vachanas, he urged the government not to use any disrespectful or objectionable images in the future.

Case Registered Over Alleged Insult to Hindu Deities and Mahatma Gandhi

BIDAR

Police have registered a case after a video allegedly showing a group of youths making derogatory remarks about Lord Rama, Lord Krishna, and Mahatma Gandhi went viral on social media.

The video, reportedly recorded while the youths were travelling on a train, shows them reciting statements in a poetic manner that allegedly insult Hindu deities and hurt religious sentiments. They are also accused of referring to Mahatma Gandhi as anti-Dalit and making controversial remarks related to incidents from the Ramayana and the life of Lord Krishna.

The video sparked outrage among members of several Hindu organizations, who condemned the remarks and demanded action.

Based on the complaints, Mehkar Police have registered a case against multiple individuals, including Kalidas Suryavanshi and Rahul Khandare.

Meanwhile, Hindu activists staged a protest in front of the Mehkar Police Station in Bhalki taluk of Bidar district, urging authorities to take strict action against those involved.

Kannada Sene Opposes Gutka Ads on KSRTC Buses

BIDAR

Kannada Sene Karnataka has opposed the display of gutka advertisements, including brands such as Vimal and Chinese gutka, on KSRTC buses, stating that public transport should not be used to promote harmful substances.

The organization also expressed concern over brand endorsements in the state. While welcoming the appointment of Kannada actress Sudharani as the brand ambassador for Nandini, it strongly objected to the state government's decision to appoint an actress from another state as the brand ambassador for Mysore Sandal.

Leaders argued that Mysore Sandal is a prestigious brand with national and international recognition and should be represented by a Kannada actress. They urged the government to reconsider the decision and appoint a local face for the brand.

State Vice President of Kannada Sene Karnataka, Raviswamy Nirni, warned that the organization would launch strong protests across the state if their demand is not addressed.

PROTECT WORKER BENEFITS

Workers block roads during Yaragera general strike

RAICHUR

As part of the All India General Strike, workers and trade union members blocked roads near Kurnool Circle in Yaragera village of Raichur taluk on Thursday. The protest was led by the All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU) against the four labour codes introduced by the central government.

The protesters said the repeal of 29 labour laws and the introduction of four labour codes is not just an economic issue but a direct political attack on workers' rights. They alleged that changes in the definition of factories and the increase in limits for contract workers have pushed nearly 90 percent of workers out of benefits such as minimum wages, ESI, PF, gratuity and bonuses. They also raised concern that fixing minimum wages at very low levels, without ensuring a living wage, will worsen the already difficult lives of workers. Protesters said the new rules weaken the power of workers to form unions and bargain collectively.

They further alleged that the right to strike has been restricted, with penalties like fines, wage cuts and even jail terms being imposed on workers who protest for their rights. Allowing factories with fewer than 300 workers to shut down freely was called a policy favouring big companies.

The protesters also accused the central government of weakening schemes like NREGA and harming the rural economy through power privatisation, changes in land acquisition laws and denial of fair prices to farmers. They criticised the Karnataka government for issuing labour code notifications without consulting unions.

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the four labour codes, strengthening of NREGA, repeal of anti-farmer laws, stopping power privatisation and prompt implementation of minimum wage recommendations.

AICC District President Aziz Jagirdar and several local leaders took part.

One Year after Bagappa Harijan's Murder, Rituals Held at Burial Site

VIJAYAPURA

It has been a year since the murder of Bhima river belt's notorious rowdy-sheeter Bagappa Harijan, who was killed on the night of February 11, 2025. The incident had created a major sensation in Vijayapura city.

Bagappa was attacked near Medina Nagar, close to the Radio Station area, by unidentified assailants who allegedly hacked him with deadly weapons and later opened fire before fleeing the scene. He was reportedly standing in front of his house when the attack took place.

On the first death anniversary, family members, associates, and supporters performed special rituals at the burial site located on farmland in Bommanahalli village of Alamela taluk in Vijayapura district. Videos of the ceremonies, including special prayers at the grave, have since gone viral on social media.

Investigations had revealed that the murder was linked to a property dispute and was allegedly carried out in retaliation for the killing of Ravi Melinamani. In connection with the case, Ravi's brother Prakash alias Pintya Melinakere, Rahul Talakeri, Sudip Kamble, and Manikanth Benakoppa were named as accused and are currently under judicial custody awaiting trial.

QUICK READ

Meat sale banned in Gadag for festival

Gadag

The Gadag Betageri Municipal Corporation has announced a ban on slaughtering cattle and selling meat on February 15 in view of Maha Shivaratri. The order applies to all slaughterhouses and meat shops within the municipal limits. Authorities have instructed traders to strictly follow the guidelines and refrain from any meat sales or animal slaughter on the festival day. The Municipal Commissioner warned that strict action will be taken against violators, including cancellation of trade licenses. Officials said the decision was taken to maintain religious sentiments and ensure peaceful observance of the festival.

Community raises awareness about epilepsy, brain health

Gadag

Lakkundi celebrated National Epilepsy Day with a program to educate the public about epilepsy, a brain disorder. Health Inspector Siddappa Lingadala urged people to treat patients with respect and compassion, noting proper treatment can allow them to live normal lives. Volunteers, doctors, and health workers conducted awareness sessions, shared safety tips, and offered medical check-ups. Praveen Ronada highlighted reducing stigma and supporting patients equally. The event included an oath-taking ceremony and guidance on exercises to improve brain health. Attendees were encouraged to help patients calmly during seizures, spreading understanding and care throughout the community.

Protest against Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project

K.S. Eshwarappa opposed the project, alleging a ₹10,700 crore conspiracy and stressing water preservation for future generations

SHIVAMOGGA

A large-scale protest was held against the Sharavathi Pumped Storage Project, organized jointly by Rashtachhaktara Balgha and environmental groups. Protesters marched from Seenappashetty Circle to the District Collector's office, denouncing the project as anti-environmental, anti-people, and unscientific.

Former Deputy Chief Minister and Rashtachhaktara Balgha convener K.S. Eshwarappa told the crowd that the government will not allow the project under any circumstances. He alleged a Rs. 10,700 crore conspiracy linked to the project and stressed that the struggle aims to preserve abundant water for future generations.

Environmental activists highlighted serious ecological concerns. Prof. B.M. Kumaraswamy criticized conflicting reports on the Western Ghats' conservation forest, where endangered Singalika and Mangatte birds reside. Dr. L.K. Sripathy said KPCL had not responded to requests regarding compensation for damage to aquatic life, farmland, fisheries, and plant resources, demonstrating an anti-people and anti-environment stance.

Notable participants included former MLAs A.T. Ramaswamy, A.S. Padmanabha Bhat, M. Shakar, Parashurama Gowda, Ravi, Ramesh Babu, E. Vishwas, Srikanth, Dr. Basavaraju, and others.

Voices from the protest

- K.E. Kantesh, Rashtrakhandar Balaga leader, said Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav has not approved the project, yet State Energy Minister K.J. George is pushing it forward. The protest will continue until it is halted.
- Shri Maruti Guruji warned about the environmental risks, noting the project involves a 130-foot tunnel and 18,500 tons of gelatin explosives, calling it unacceptable in a sensitive region.

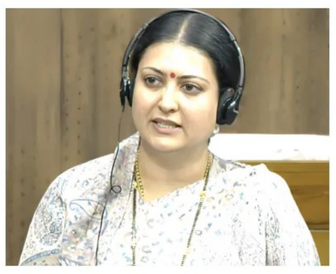
MP Prabha seeks details on AT&C losses in electricity distribution

DAVANAGERE

During the Question Hour in Parliament on Thursday, Davanagere MP Dr. Prabha Mallikarjun raised concerns about the losses in India's electricity system. She asked the Union Power Ministry for details on how much electricity is lost technically and commercially and what steps are being taken to reduce it.

Minister of State for Power, Shripad Yesso Nayak, explained that electricity distribution is mainly managed by state governments and local electricity companies. The central government supports them with financial aid and technical help. He said electricity losses include two types: technical losses from power lines and equipment, and commercial losses caused by electricity theft, wrong billing, or inefficient collection.

The Minister shared that the government has spent ₹58,686 crore under the Integrated Power Development Scheme (IPDS) to improve urban electricity networks. Another ₹1.53 lakh crore has been approved under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), and ₹1.31 lakh crore for installing smart meters to monitor usage. These steps have helped reduce India's average electricity losses from 22.62% in 2014-15 to 15.04% in 2024-25.



Minister Shripad Yesso Nayak explained electricity distribution is managed by states and local companies, supported by the center, with losses arising from technical issues and commercial inefficiencies

In Karnataka, projects worth ₹2,352 crore under IPDS have been completed, and 18,438 feeder energy meters installed. The state's losses now stand at 11.92%, lower than the national average. The Minister said these efforts aim to save electricity and make distribution more efficient, benefiting both the government and consumers.

'Youth Should Build Strong Leadership Skills'

UDUPI

State Red Cross President Basruru Rajeev Shetty urged young people to develop creativity and leadership skills to contribute positively to society. Speaking at a two-day Creativity and Personality Development Camp organized with the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department, he emphasized that youth aged 18–35 form 60–65% of the population and must actively shape the nation's future.

He said training helps unlock inner creativity and improves personality, communication, and problem-solving abilities.

Camp organizers, resource persons, and students from local colleges attended. He highlighted that a true leader must act responsibly, collaborate freely, and respond to others' challenges with empathy.

Vijayendra criticized the government's failure in housing, water, employment, and alleged MLAs' trips aim to protect the chief minister

Vijayendra Alleges CM Sending Cong MLAs Abroad to Safeguard Post

BELAGAVI

BJP state president B.Y. Vijayendra alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is sending Congress MLAs on foreign trips to protect his position as chief minister. Speaking at a press conference in Belagavi, Vijayendra said the move clearly showed the priorities of the Congress government.

He said the government has failed to provide funds for basic development works after coming to power. Schemes related to housing, drinking water and employment have not been implemented properly. Vijayendra claimed that people are saying such an irresponsible government has never been seen in the history of the state. Though the chief minister said MLAs are travelling at their own expense,

Vijayendra alleged that the trips are meant only to save his chair.

Responding to questions about internal Congress issues, Vijayendra said Siddaramaiah and D.K. Shivakumar are fighting among themselves. He added that the BJP is watching the situation and said the ruling party leaders have reached a stage where they openly attack each other.

Vijayendra accused the chief minister of sacrificing the interests of the state for political survival. He said no real development is happening, jobs are not being created and injustice is being done to all communities. He also questioned the government over the alleged misuse of Rs 5,000 crore under the Griha Lakshmi scheme and said the finance minister must clearly explain where the money went.

He further alleged that compensation has not been paid fully under the Anugraha scheme for sheep and goat farmers. According to him, thousands of farmers are still waiting for relief.

Vijayendra announced that a BJP state executive meeting will be held on February 19 in Bengaluru. He said the party will discuss upcoming elections, failures of the state government and achievements of the central government.

Trade unions protest demanding rollback of labour codes

YADGIRI

Members of the Joint Committee of Trade Unions (JCTU) Yadgiri and Samyukta Horata Karnataka staged a protest near Subhash Circle in Yadgiri city on Thursday, demanding the immediate withdrawal of four labour codes and what they termed as anti-farmer and anti-worker laws.

Addressing the gathering, AIUTUC State Secretary K. Somashekar said several central trade unions, including AIUTUC, CITU and independent employees' organisations, have called for an all-India general strike on February 12. He alleged that the central government is attacking the rights of workers by introducing policies that favour big corporate houses.

He claimed that public sector units and services such as railways, ports, coal mines, oil, steel, defence production, roads, airports, banks, telecommunications, postal services, nuclear power and electricity have been pushed towards privatisation. According to him, this has led to job losses and increased unemployment across the country.

Speakers said common people are suffering due to rising prices of essential commodities, privatisation of education and healthcare, and growing economic inequality. They alleged that the weakening of the NREGA scheme has affected job security for the rural poor.

The protestors also opposed the Electricity Amendment Bill, stating that privatisation of the power sector would harm consumers. They raised concerns about allowing 100 percent domestic and foreign investment in the insurance sector and said environmental and safety issues are being ignored in the name of nuclear power development.

They said Anganwadi, ASHA and mid-day meal workers continue to be exploited without minimum wages, job security or retirement benefits. Platform and unorganised sector workers were also said to be facing insecurity.

The unions demanded withdrawal of the four labour codes, repeal of anti-people laws, immediate wage revision in Karnataka, and urged the state government not to implement labour code rules.

Haveri gears up for massive government conference

HAVERI

The state Congress government will complete 1,000 days in power on February 13, and to mark the occasion, a grand land guarantee dedication conference has been organised in Haveri on February 14. Around two lakh people are expected to attend the event, where land ownership documents will be distributed to nearly 1.10 lakh beneficiaries.

The district administration has completed all major preparations for the conference. Several state ministers, heads of corporations and boards, and senior Congress leaders will take part. After successfully holding similar conferences in Hospet and Hubballi earlier, this will be the third major dedication event organised by the government. A large stage has been constructed near Ajjayyan Gadduge, close to the RTO office, the same location where the All India Literature Conference was held earlier.

District Superintendent of Police Yashoda Vantagodi said elaborate security arrangements have been made. About 3,000 police personnel will be deployed, including senior officers, KSRP units, Quick Response Teams, and home guards. Fifty CCTV cameras have been installed around the venue, and a special control room has been set up to monitor the event. Public address systems have also been arranged to manage crowds.

A total of 2,262 buses will bring participants from nine districts. Separate parking areas have been identified, and buses will be parked based on QR codes to avoid confusion. Fire brigade teams, JCBs, and towing vehicles will be stationed at parking points for emergencies.

Four helipads have been newly constructed at Haveri Medical College. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, and other leaders will arrive by helicopter and reach the venue through zero-traffic routes.

To manage traffic, certain routes between Devagiri and Haveri will be restricted for public movement on the day, while national highways will remain open.

Koppal DLSA Urges Departments to Settle Pending Cases Through Mediation

KOPPAL

Senior Civil Judge and Member Secretary of the Koppal District Legal Services Authority, Mahantesh S. Dargada, urged officers from different government departments to resolve pending court cases through mediation during the National Lok Adalat scheduled for March 14.

He was speaking at a preparatory meeting held on Wednesday at the District Legal Services Authority office hall in Koppal. Officers from several departments attended the meeting to discuss arrangements for the upcoming Lok Adalat.

Justice Dargada said many people are not fully aware of laws and legal benefits. He stressed that officials must help spread legal awareness among the public. He asked departments to give wide publicity to the National Lok Adalat through municipal vehicles, bus stands, and newspapers.

He explained that settling cases through mediation saves time, money, and relationships. He said the goal this time is to settle more cases, which requires cooperation from all departments.

The judge pointed out that many family disputes, especially among siblings over property sharing, can be resolved peacefully at home. However, due to misunderstandings and lack of dialogue, such matters reach courts and continue for years.

He added that divorce cases often worsen because of ego and anger, leading to the destruction of families. Justice Dargada said if people choose understanding and harmony, many disputes can be avoided.

He appealed to the public to take full advantage of the National Lok Adalat being held across Karnataka on March 14 to settle disputes in a friendly manner.

Several officials from revenue, environment, excise, information, labour, municipal, transport, forest, and other departments attended the meeting.

EARLY LEARNING SUPPORT

'Teachers must be mentally strong for children'

DHARWAD

Teachers must be mentally strong and sensitive to support the learning growth of children, said Dr. Mahesh Desai, Head of the Mental Health Department at KIMS, Hubballi. He said learning ability differs from child to child and teachers should understand this with patience and confidence.

He was speaking at a one-day workshop on learning disabilities organised at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Dharwad. Dr. Desai explained that early identification of learning problems related to reading, writing, mathematics and language is very important. If these issues are noticed early, children can be supported better.

He said schools should provide internal support, positive reinforcement and practical help to children facing learning difficulties. A caring and encouraging atmosphere between teachers and students is essential. Children are naturally curious, and if they are given time and a friendly environment, their interest in learning will grow on its own.

Dr. Desai advised limiting the use of electronic gadgets at the right age. He explained that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is a neurodevelopmental condition. Its main signs include lack of concentration, restlessness, boredom and acting without thinking. He said these issues can be managed through proper medication, time management and training for parents.

He also stressed the importance of yoga, meditation, nutritious food and a healthy lifestyle for maintaining children's mental health. Instead of comparing children, teachers and parents should spend more quality time with them.

Deputy Director and DIET Principal Basavaraj Nalawatwada said teachers should use the knowledge gained from the workshop to build confidence in children. Dr. Niharika demonstrated stress management techniques, while Dr. Amulya spoke on time management. State resource persons, senior lecturers, DIET staff, and more than 150 teachers and headmasters from the district attended the workshop.

QUICK READ

Parents appeal to help find missing 13-year-old girl

Gauribidanur

Hafeefah Kausar, a 13-year-old student of class 6 from Uppara Colony, Gauribidanur, has been reported missing. She has not returned home after leaving the house while her mother attended a relative's program and her father went to town to buy snacks. Her parents searched nearby homes, relatives, and friends but could not locate her. They have now filed a complaint with Gauribidanur Nagar Police Station, requesting help to find their daughter. Hafeefah is described as fair-skinned, about 4 feet tall, wearing a red t-shirt, black night pants, black burqa, and black niqab. She speaks Kannada, Telugu, and Urdu. Police have asked anyone with information about her whereabouts to contact the nearest police station or the Gauribidanur city police. Authorities are actively investigating to ensure her safe return.

Minority schools extend application submission deadline

Chikkaballapur

The Minority Welfare Department has extended the application deadline for Class 6 admissions for 2026-27 to February 28. Eligible students can apply online through Seva Sindhu for Minority Morarji Desai Residential Schools in Peresandra, Alipur, Bagepalli, and Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Residential School, Mastenahalli. Seventy-five percent of seats are reserved for minority students, while 25% are for Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. Admission is based on entrance exam marks and roster rules. Applications can also be submitted free at the District Minorities Officer's office. Contact details are provided for each school and information centers.

K'taka to Distribute Land Titles to 1.06 Lakh Families in Haveri

Krishna Byre Gowda highlighted digitization progress: 67.5 crore pages scanned, enabling secure, verifiable online access to land and family records

SHIVAMOGGA

The Karnataka state government will distribute land titles to 1.06 lakh families in Haveri on February 14, said Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda. The program marks the completion of 1,000 days of the current government's term.

Speaking to the media, the minister said that families living in 6,500 residential areas without proper land documents for decades will now receive legal titles. Many of these areas have existed for 50 to 60 years without official recognition. Previously, 2.2 lakh people have received land titles, including 36,000 families last year.

The minister added that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Ministers, and Cabinet Ministers will attend the program. Rahul Gandhi will not be present.

He clarified that title deeds cannot be issued in the Kanu and Soppina hills of Malnad, as the Forest Department is following Supreme Court directions. Only after legal clearance and compensation can titles be granted there.

Krishna Byre Gowda also highlighted the progress in document digitization. The revenue department has scanned 67.5 crore pages

across 100 taluks. Citizens can now apply for land security online and access family trees and property records directly from home. He stressed that the online family tree cannot be faked and is verifiable in banks and courts.

The digitization effort allows 9,000 to 13,000 registrations daily, while server issues are being addressed. Next year, scanning will be completed in all survey and registration offices, enabling citizens to receive records instantly.

Minister Krishna Byre Gowda avoided commenting on political questions, including MLAs' foreign trips, focusing solely on the land distribution and digitization progress.

This program is expected to give long-awaited legal recognition to thousands of families, ensuring security and clarity over land ownership across the state.

Tanuja secures third prize in state essay contest

CHITRADURGA

Tanuja, a class 10 student of Government High School, Chavalihalli Gollarahatti in Chitradurga taluk, has won third place in the state-level Bapuji essay competition. The contest was organized by the Information and Public Relations Department as part of Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

The competition began at the district level last October, where Tanuja's essay on "Lesson of Cleanliness – Gandhiji's Message" won first prize. Her winning essay was then sent to the state-level contest, where students from across Karnataka competed in high school, undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate categories. The results were recently announced, and Tanuja secured the third position in the high school category. District Information Officer Tukaramrao B.V. confirmed that Tanuja will receive a cash prize of Rs. 11,000 along with a certificate for her achievement. Her success brings pride to her school and the Chitradurga district.

Officials were directed to clean water tanks, maintain records, test sources, and monitor lake inflow and storage capacity

'Small health changes drive lasting development goals'

CHITRADURGA

District RCH Officer Dr. D.M. Abhinava said small and continuous improvements in the health system are key to achieving sustainable development and reducing maternal and infant deaths. He was speaking while inaugurating the second co-design workshop held at the Zilla Panchayat Hall in Chitradurga.

The workshop was organised by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, KHPT, and St. John's Medical College and Hospital. It focused on sharing field experiences and planning future strategies to strengthen care during the first 1,000 days of life under the ICMR CAR Project.

Dr. Abhinava said micro planning and regular review of small gaps can bring major change. He recalled the successful micro planning methods used during the polio campaign years ago and said such proven models should be

reused today. He added that cleanliness and discipline must become daily habits in hospitals, not limited to special visits by officials.

Under the Mission Zero Preventable Maternal Death initiative, the district aims to reduce preventable maternal deaths to zero and bring infant mortality down to single digits. He noted that government and private doctors are working together to achieve this goal.

Highlighting progress, Dr. Abhinava said no maternal deaths were reported in Chitradurga district during November, December, and January. He called this a major achievement given the district's difficult geography and praised doctors, specialists, ASHA workers, and ANM nurses for their dedication.

Dr. Suman Rao from St. John's Medical College said the project follows the Indian Newborn Action Plan and focuses on care from pre-pregnancy to post-birth stages. He explained that 80 percent of brain development happens in the first two years, and proper care during this period can shape a child's future.

Several medical experts and organisation representatives attended the workshop.

Ramanagara plans mass simple marriage event

Hussain said the scheme provides practical wedding support—furniture, utensils, clothes, and anklets—while officials verify documents to ensure only deserving poor couples benefit

RAMANAGARA

The District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and Minority Welfare Department will organize a mass simple marriage program on Friday, Feb. 13, at 5 pm, MLA Iqbal Hussain announced. Over 150 Muslim couples from across the district will be married in the program and will receive Rs. 50,000 each along with various facilities to help them start their new lives.

Addressing a press conference after reviewing the preparations near Yarabnagar, Hussain said this is the first large-scale simple marriage program for minorities in Ramanagara. "Helping poor families marry simply is a sacred work," he said. The initiative covers couples from Kanakapura, Magadi, and Channapatna and aims to encourage simple weddings while ensuring dignity and celebration.

Hussain explained that all couples will receive practical support, including cupboards, couches, bedsheets, utensils, four sets of clothes for each bride and groom, and anklets, making the wedding feel grand despite being simple. Officials will verify all documents, including age certificates, marital status, and divorce records, to ensure only deserving poor couples benefit from the scheme.

The program will see participation from senior leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Speaker U.T. Khader, District In-charge Minister Ramalingareddy, Minority Welfare Minister Zamin Ahmed Khan, Municipal Administration Minister Rahim Khan, along with MLAs, Legislative Council members, the District Collector, and the Superintendent of Police.

Other prominent attendees at the press conference included K. Raju, A.B. Chetan Kumar, Faviz Pasha, Nizamuddin Sharif, Azmat, Aisha Banu, Samad, Annu, K. Ravi, Shafi, and Wasim. Hussain emphasized that the event is designed to provide dignity and joy to poor couples while promoting simple marriages across the district.

GTTC Challakere invites applications for guest lecturers

CHITRADURGA

The Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC), Challakere, has invited applications for Guest Lecturer posts for the upcoming academic year. Vacancies are available in DTDM–Mechanical Engineering and DMCH–Electronics and Communication Engineering departments. Candidates with B.E or M.Tech qualifications in the relevant fields are eligible to apply. Interested applicants can visit the college in person or send their latest biodata along with required documents through email. Salary will be paid according to GTTC rules. For further details, candidates can contact 7625008641 or 8147384716, the Principal said in an official statement.

Sant Shri Sevalal Jayanti to Be Celebrated on Feb. 15

BALLARI

Sant Shri Sevalal Jayanti will be celebrated on February 15 at 12.30 pm at Dr. Joladarashi Doddannagowda Auditorium in Ballari. The programme is jointly organised by the District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Department of Kannada and Culture, and the City Corporation.

Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister and District In-charge Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan will inaugurate the event, while Ballari City MLA Nara Bharat Reddy will preside.

Several MPs, MLAs, MLCs and heads of various boards and corporations are expected to attend as chief guests. Prof. S. Shantanayak, a member of the Karnataka Banjara Culture and Language Academy, will deliver a special lecture on the life and teachings of Sant Shri Sevalal.

A devotional music performance by D. Sandhyarao's team from Ballari will be part of the celebrations. Senior district officials, including the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police, will also be present, organisers said.

Submit Proposals Where Housing Demand Exists: Zameer Ahmed Khan

BALLARI

District In-charge Minister and Housing, Waqf and Minority Welfare Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan on Thursday directed officials to submit proposals wherever there is demand for housing in the district.

Chairing the first District Planning Committee (DPC) meeting at the Abdul Nazeer Sab Hall of the Zilla Panchayat, he said the committee report had identified a demand for 2,000 houses in Ballari and stressed the need for a supplementary survey to assess the exact requirement. Noting that multiple grants are available, he instructed officials to prepare proposals based on actual housing needs and submit detailed reports at the earliest.

An estimated outlay of Rs 5,500 crore has been proposed for housing, education and healthcare facilities across the district's five taluks. The minister added that additional development works could be incorporated into the plan based on suggestions from committee

members.

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Mohammad Harris Sumer said the DPC is responsible for consolidating and approving rural and urban development plans and monitoring district-level projects. He also informed that Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University has been appointed as the technical agency to prepare Ballari's Human Development Report-2025 and Comprehensive Sustainable District Development Report-2030.

Several MLAs, officials and elected representatives attended the meeting.

Jaibhim opposes canal route change in Chikkabanahalli

K.R. PURA

Jaibhim Karnataka Sangha State President M. Annaiah has submitted a complaint to the Tahsildar opposing any change to the traditional path passing through several government survey numbers in Chikkabanahalli village of Bengaluru East Taluk.

He urged authorities to reject the request made by Sterling Urban Infra Project Paily and Prestige Project Limited for changing the route of the Raja Canal and Bandidari located in Chikkabanahalli village, Bidarahalli Hobli. He said the proposed diversion passes through many survey numbers and will harm public land and common resources.

Annaiah demanded that no route change should be permitted under any circumstances. He also asked officials to immediately clear the Raja Canal and Bandidari and stop all ongoing work related to the proposed diversion until a proper review is completed.

In his complaint, he alleged that Prestige Project Limited has already encroached upon roads, royal canals, cattle sheds and bunds in Hagdoor and Sorahunasi villages, as well as in Shigehalli, Gunjur, Whitefield and Pattandur Agrahara areas. He said such actions have affected farmers, villagers and public infrastructure.

He further demanded that all royal canals, Bandidari routes and government-owned vacant lands should be properly identified and protected. Until these lands are officially taken over and secured by the government, he said no changes should be allowed.

The complaint also called for a ban on land registrations related to these areas at podi, revenue and sub-registrar offices. He urged authorities to stop providing electricity and water connections through BESCOM and other agencies.

Warning of protests, Annaiah said if officials fail to act, organisations across Karnataka will launch strong demonstrations very soon statewide.

BAGEPALLI RURAL SPORTS

Rural sports camp inspires youth at Bagepalli

BAGEPALLI

A grand taluk-level rural sports meet and summer camp was successfully organised at Bagepalli by the Parivartana Youth Sports Cultural Association with support from the Chikkaballapur District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, and the Youth Empowerment and Sports Department. The event was held at the Vikas Pre-University College Grounds in Bagyanagar and witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and local youth.

Addressing the gathering, Venu B. Bommanahalli, President of the Parivartana Youth

Sports Cultural Association, expressed concern over the growing mobile phone addiction among today's youth. He said excessive use of mobile websites is creating confusion, stress, and health problems among young men and women. He advised youth to reduce screen time and actively take part in sports to improve self-confidence, discipline, and physical fitness. According to him, sports play a key role in building a strong and focused generation.

More than 200 students from various colleges across Bagepalli taluk, along with local talents, took part in the event. Traditional and fun-filled rural games such as Lagori, Haggajaggata, three-legged race, sack race, lemon and spoon race, Madike Poot, and musical chair were conducted. Participants displayed great energy, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout the day.

Winners in each event were awarded first, second, and third prizes, along with certificates, encouraging them to continue their involvement in sports. The event aimed not only to promote physical activity but also to revive interest in traditional rural games.

Vikas College Principal Shivanna, journalist Press Subbarayappa, physical education teacher Sarojadevi, Prakriti College administrator Dr. Srinivas, Sakya Yuvaranga Trust President D.M. Gangadhar, District Human Rights Anti-Corruption Squad member Krishnappa, Munindra, college staff, students, and local residents were present and supported the programme.

The organisers said such events help guide youth towards a healthy and positive lifestyle while strengthening community bonds.

QUICK READ

Raichur DSP conducts surprise jail inspection

Raichur

District Superintendent of Police Arunangshu Giri paid an unannounced visit to Raichur District Jail on Thursday to inspect the facility and question inmates. During the visit, he instructed all prisoners not to possess or consume any illegal substances while in custody. DSP Pramanand Godke, along with other police officers and jail staff, were present during the inspection. The surprise visit aimed to ensure strict adherence to rules and maintain discipline within the jail. Authorities emphasized that such checks would continue to prevent unlawful activities and safeguard the safety and security of inmates.

Grand prasad distribution for Malai Mahadeshwara hikers

Chamarajanagar

Ramanagara Silk City organized a special prasad distribution program for devotees hiking to Malai Mahadeshwara hill. A tent near Mallayanpura village in Hanur taluk is hosting meals, snacks, drinks, buttermilk, leaves, and areca nuts for thousands of participants. Facilities for rest, mobile charging, drinking water, and basic medical aid have also been provided. The program aims to support and encourage devotees during the strenuous hike. Silk City President Prakash V., District Secretary B. Gopal, and several community leaders, including Latha Gopal, Boralingagowda Kumar, and Prabhakar L. Kantaraju, were present to oversee the arrangements.

Quality education needed for rural students: Namoshi

Nitin Guttedar praised Dr. Rayagondappa Anjutagi, recalling early challenges and celebrating the institution's proud growth despite the founder's absence

AFZALPUR

Educational institutions should compete to provide quality education, especially in rural areas, said Legislative Council member Shasheel Namoshi. He emphasized that only through competition between aided and unaided schools can students from villages receive good learning opportunities.

Namoshi spoke after unveiling the statue of Dr. Rayagondappa Anjutagi and launching the 12th anniversary program of Shri Veerasangameshwara Vidyapeeth and Rural Development Social Service Trust in Shirwal village. He said that although rules exist requiring many facilities in government schools, the government has failed to provide them adequately. Namoshi added that more grants and opportunities must be given to the education sector in the Kalyan Karnataka region, similar to Kittur and Mysore Karnataka regions. Without this support, he warned, educational standards may not improve even in the next 50 years.

Former Gram Panchayat President Nitin Guttedar recalled the early challenges faced by the institution and praised the efforts of Dr. Rayagondappa Anjutagi, saying that the institution's growth is a source of pride despite the founder not being physically present.

Vikas Anjutagi, President of the institution, Sangamesh Anjutagi, and several others also spoke during the program, highlighting the institution's contribution to education and rural development.

The event saw participation from notable personalities, including Dr. Channamalla Shivayogi Shivacharya, Kailasalinga Shivacharya, Shambhulinga Shivayogi Shivacharya, Basavaraja Balundagi, Mahesh Hoogara, Danappa Herura, Jagadevappa Anjutagi, Dr. Vikram Hiremath, Shamaraya Gowda Patil, Tukarama Gowda Patil, Mallu Yankanchi, Sadhik Ahmed, Bhagwantraya Sankoli, Bilal Chaudhary, Soumya Anjutagi, Sadashiva Anjutagi, and Shrimant Anjutagi.

The program focused on improving educational quality in rural areas and encouraging institutions to play an active role in shaping students' future.

H.P. Manjunath Pledges Support to Build Homes for Poor

HUNSUR

Former MLA H.P. Manjunath said that during his 15-year tenure, 34.33 acres of land within the city limits were reserved by the Municipal Shelter Committee for distributing houses and plots to poor families. He said he is committed to giving full guidance and cooperation to the present MLAs to ensure houses are built and handed over to the needy on this land.

Speaking at a press conference held at the city press office, Manjunath said the Municipal Shelter Committee has not conducted a single meeting in the last three years. Because of this, sites have not been identified for beneficiaries, and housing construction schemes have not moved forward. He said such schemes cannot be implemented without positive action and coordination from the MLAs.

He recalled that under the leadership of the Hunsur Citizens' Interest Protection Committee, led by V.P. Borey, beneficiaries of the Vambe Housing Scheme had protested and later received land title deeds. Manjunath said that even though he is not currently in power, he is ready to attend meetings with MLAs and extend full cooperation. He clearly stated that he does not want to do politics on this issue and that public welfare is his only goal.

Manjunath said there are nearly 3,000 to 4,000 homeless people in the city. If housing is provided to them, their quality of life will greatly improve. During his tenure, about 3,000 applications were pending before the Shelter Committee, and he believes the number may now have increased to around 4,000.

He expressed confidence that the MLAs would raise the issue with the Housing Minister and take necessary steps without hesitation. He also mentioned that MLAs had demanded ₹70 crore to clean the Lakshmana Tirtha river, while ₹41 crore had already been sanctioned earlier.

Congress Municipal President Ravi Prasanna, former Municipal Council Presidents Swamy Gowda and Lakshman, and lawyer Puttaraju were present.

Vijayapura plans measures to avoid water shortage

VIJAYAPURA

District Collector Dr. Anand K. has asked officials to make sure that people and livestock do not face drinking water problems this summer. He instructed that lakes be filled using canal networks and that water supply be closely monitored across the district.

In a meeting with taluka tehsildars, panchayat officers, and other department officials, Dr. Anand emphasized that available water should be stored carefully and used efficiently. He asked officials to identify areas that might face shortages and hold task force meetings every two weeks to prevent any issues.

Officials were told to clean village and town overhead water tanks and maintain logbooks of the cleaning process. They were also instructed to check all water sources and test water before supply to avoid contamination. Complete information about the water available in lakes, daily inflow, and storage capacity should be recorded for easy monitoring.

The Collector also reviewed the Jiya Drinking Water Comprehensive Project. He said pending works of Jaldhare Project-1 must be completed quickly. Officials were told to resolve problems with land and electricity pipelines in a coordinated way. Work progress of both Jaldhare Project-1 and Project-2 was presented through a PowerPoint to ensure all officials understood the status.

Dr. Anand praised the officials for their efforts and urged them to stay alert to ensure safe and sufficient water supply during the summer months. The meeting was attended by Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Rishi Anand, Additional District Collector Dr. Audram, Indi Deputy Divisional Officer Chidananda Guruswamy, and other district officials.

Kalaburagi Community Hall work faces delay

KALABURAGI

The long-awaited Ambigara Choudaiah Community Hall in Jewargi has hit a roadblock, angering local community leaders. The hall, planned behind Noorindeshwar College near Naribola Road, has seen no progress even three months after the state government sanctioned a tender of Rs 45 lakh under the 2024-25 special grant. Officials from the PWD department had approved the work for the compound wall and basic facilities. However, members of the local community and a Congress leader raised objections, questioning the cost estimate and demanding a revised approval before the project can begin.

"This delay is unfair to the people of the community," said Devendra K. Chigarahalli, a leader of the Koli and Kabbaliga communities. He warned that if the work does not start immediately, a protest including a taluk-level office siege could follow. Youth leaders Shrimant Maunur and Chandrakant Ganwhar urged that the construction begin using the government funds already allocated, criticizing the unnecessary hold-up. Mariyappa Kuttikhir, President of the Youth Unit Jewargi, demanded strict action against officials and others responsible for the delay.

Farmers strike demands fair wages and policies

HUNSUR

Farmers and farm workers in Hunsur participated in a massive march on Thursday as part of the nationwide general strike called by Samyukta Kishan Morcha and the Joint Committee of Trade Unions. The protest aimed to demand better wages, fair crop prices, and the withdrawal of anti-farmer and labor bills introduced by the central and state governments.

The march began at Constitution Circle, where workers affiliated with CITU, the Karnataka Province Farmers' Association, and other farmer groups gathered. Carrying banners and shouting slogans, the protesters called for the withdrawal of harmful labor laws, fixation of support prices for crops, and a minimum wage of ₹36,000 for all workers.

Addressing the crowd, District President of the Farmers' Association, Hosur Kumar, said that current policies are pushing farmers and workers toward economic slavery. He criticized the central government for betraying farmers' trust by introducing anti-farmer bills and handing land to corporate interests. Jagadeeshwari, District Secretary of the Karnataka Province Farmers' Association, added that these policies favor the wealthy while leaving poor farmers and laborers without homes or basic rights.

CITU District Convener Basavaraj Kalkunike warned that anti-people policies are threatening the livelihoods of ordinary citizens. He urged united action against governments that neglect the welfare of workers and farmers. Several other leaders, including Benkipur Chikkanna, Chikkannagouda, M.C. Chandrashekhar, and members of the Akshara Dasoha Employees' Association, spoke at the meeting.

Hundreds of farmer workers and laborers from across the district participated, emphasizing the need for solidarity to secure fair wages, protect public resources, and ensure a dignified life for all working people.

Vijayapura celebrates folklore writer Dr. Linganna

VIJAYAPURA

Vijayapura celebrated the 121st birth anniversary of renowned folklore writer Dr. Simpi Linganna. The Department of Kannada and Culture, along with the Halasangi Friends Foundation, organized the event at The Presidency College of Education on B.L.D.E. Road.

Dr. S.T. Bolareddy, Principal of Basaveshwara Vidyavardhaka Sanstha, said the program offered students a chance to learn about folklore and Kannada literature. Dr. Mallikarjuna Maitri praised Simpi Linganna as a folk legend, a recipient of the national-level Ideal Teacher Award, and a literary sage. He highlighted Linganna's efforts in collecting village songs and translating the philosophical works of Aurobindo and Ramatirtha into Kannada, bringing recognition to the language.

Shivasharanappa Shiroor emphasized the importance of preserving folk literature in today's times, noting that traditional songs from elders during daily chores remain deeply ingrained in people's memories. B.R. Banasode recalled how Linganna celebrated Nadahabba festivals, bringing communities together, a tradition now fading.

Deputy Commissioner inspects Chikkamandya heli tourism

MANDYA

The Deputy Commissioner visited Chikkamandya to inspect preparations for the upcoming heli tourism launch during the Budanur festival. Officials conducted a thorough review of the proposed helipad site, checking safety compliance, emergency services, firefighting readiness, vehicle parking, and traffic management. Precautionary measures to avoid public inconvenience were also evaluated. The Deputy Commissioner instructed officers to secure all necessary permissions and follow government guidelines and departmental rules before the launch. The initiative aims to ensure a safe and well-organized experience for tourists while maintaining public safety during the festival.

Youth engaged in budget program nationwide

MANDYA

Mandya Mai Bharat Kendra, under the guidance of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, has launched the national-level program "My Bharat Budget Cry 2026", inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya. The initiative aims to increase youth awareness about the Union Budget and encourage their active participation in the country's development.

The program is designed to engage students from colleges, educational institutions, and training centers across India through interactive and participatory activities. It seeks to help young people understand how the Union Budget 2026 impacts daily life and national priorities.

At the Mandya district level, the program will be conducted in two phases. The first phase involves a National Online Essay Competition on the Union Budget 2026. The second phase is an Essay Writing Competition for selected participants. The initiative aligns with the vision of a "Developed India" and promotes informed discussions among youth on economic planning and development priorities.

Shruti S., District Youth Officer of My Bharat Kendra, said in a statement that the program encourages students to express their ideas and suggestions for national progress.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, NIRAJ SINDHWANI S/o SHRI RAM SINDHWANI R/o Flat No A-1, Pradham Vista Building, Near SBI, Abbaiah Reddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, C.V. Raman Nagar, Bangalore North, Karnataka-560093, have changed the name of my minor daughter PIHU aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as PIHU SINDHWANI.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BISWASH B SARKI S/o BIR BAHADDUR, R/o No-6, Sy No-41/3, Usha Raju Nivas, Anjinappa Layout, Gubbi Cross, Kothanur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560077, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BISHWAS GABRIEL ZECHARIAH.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAJESH S/o SIDDANNA, R/o No.241, 1st Floor, 1st Cross, Hesaraghatta Main Road, Basavanna Statue, J K Basavanna Nagar, Medi Agrahara, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560097, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUDRANNA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LAKSHMI PRASHANTHI ATUKURI (old name), a resident of HF1203, BRIGADE METROPOLIS, GARUDACHARPALYA, BENGALURU, KARNATAKA – 560048, INDIA, have changed my name to PRASHANTHI ATUKURI (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 12-02-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

NAME CHANGE

I, **ASFIYA**, D/o, Mohammed Mustafa Khan, residing at No 01, Old No 79, 2nd Cross, Umar Farooq Masjid Road, Munigowda Garden, Neelasandra, Bengaluru-560047, have changed my name to **ASFIYA KHANUM**, vide affidavit dated: 12.02.2026, before Notary P.N.NAGESHA, Bangalore.

NAME CHANGE

I, **SALMA BANO FAZIULLA HUSSAIN**, resident of No.624, 2nd Floor, 28th Main, 31st Cross, Near Masjid Islamia, Tilak Nagar, Bengaluru-560041, have changed my name to **SALMA BANO**, vide affidavit dated: 12.02.2026, before Notary N.NAGAPPA, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANTARA GUHA CHOUDHARY W/o AMIT KUMAR CHOUDHARY, R/o B-002, Oscar Orchards, A Block, Sahakaranagar, Bangalore North, Bengaluru, Karnataka560092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANTARAA GUHA.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROOPA POONACHA KARNANDA (old name), a resident of No F1/2, VIJAYKIRAN APARTMENTS, 32 VICTORIA ROAD, NEAR KV SCHOOL, VICTORIA LAYOUT, Bangalore - 560047, Karnataka INDIA, have changed my name to (GIVEN NAME OR FIRST NAME) ROOPA POONACHA SURNAME KARNANDA (NEW Name) vide affidavit dated 12-02-2026, sworn advocate and notary Mohammed Hussain K.

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To place a classified ad contact: 080-41209042

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public are hereby notified that my Client Krupalini W/o Late. Mahesh C. House No.: 685/B, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, Hinkal, Mysuru 570017. Has lost Original Gift Deed Document No. MYN-1-070755-2013-14, dated 07-02-2024, has lost on 01-01-2021 in this regard the Police Compaint was logged on 11-02-2026. Vide Complaint No : 2056553/2026 at Mysore Police Station If any Person's finds the said documents please inform me or contact to the address mentioned below 07 (Seven) days from the date of this Public Notice. If any person/s misuses the said documents, the same is not binding on my client and they shall do so at their own risk.

Sd/- Lohith N.
Advocate, "Sri Sai Law Associates" # 2967/2, 14th Main, 2nd Cross, Saraswathipuram, Mysore - 570009
Mobile No. 9611113323

Date : 11-02-2026
Place : Mysore

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LOCKER BREAK OPEN NOTICE

KBL/130/OR/ /2025-26 Date: 13.02.2026

The following persons who had availed locker facility have not paid the locker rent for more than 3 years/ not operated the locker for more than 7 years in spite of our notice. Therefore, please take notice that if the locker rent is not paid/ not operated the locker on or before **23.02.2026**, the Bank will be constrained to break open the lockers on date mentioned therein at 11.00 am in the branch premises mentioned below, subject to rules and regulations of the Bank. The Bank reserves the right to cancel/postpone the break open to any other convenient date, without further notice and assigning the reasons therefore.

Sl. N0	Locker No.	Date on which locker availed	Name	Balance of locker rent in Rs. (inclusive of GST)	Place and Date of Break open and contact Number
1	331	08.05.2012	Mr. Shantanu Kumar Singh D-503, Greenwich Block, Concorde Manhattans, Electronic City, Phase I, Bengaluru - 560100	Rs.32792.20 p	Karnataka Bank ltd. No.95/1, Balaji Plaza, Dr. Abdul Kalam Layout, Opp. Isro Main Gate, Marathahalli, Bengaluru - 560037. Mobile: 8951970710, 9741119111 Date of Break Open: 24.02.2026
2	338	31.05.2012	Mr. Lakshminarayana M No.210, Behind Chandana Bakery, Channasandra, Kadugodi Post, Bengaluru-560067	Rs.32792.20 p	
3	418	23.12.2013	Mr. Venkata Ramana Sana Flat No.107, Sri Hari Nivas, 23, Munireddy Layout, Marathahlli ORR, Kadubeesanahalli, Bengaluru -560103	Rs.8389.80 p	
4	473	22.09.2016	Smt. Kavitha V Reddy No.1, Maruthi Krupa, Aravind Avenue, Kundhahalli Gate, Marathahalli, Bengaluru - 560037	Rs.64760.76 p	
5	59	23.11.2008	Mr. Panduranga Shirke, 727, Ferns Paradise, Marathahalli Outer Ring Road, Doddanekundi, Bengaluru-560037	Rs.3610.80 p Locker inoperative since 08.07.18	
6	135	12.12.2009	Mr. Chandan Reddy S No.91, 3rd Main, Doddanekundi, Bengaluru -560037	Locker inoperative since 29.03.2015	

Date : 13.02.2026
Place : Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Signatoy
For Karnataka Bank

QUICK READ

Jharkhand urges Centre to consider SOP on use of Aadhaar data

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court, while hearing a habeas corpus petition concerning a minor girl missing from Gumla district since 2018, has directed the state and Central governments to consider framing a clear Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on the use of Aadhaar data for identifying and tracing missing children. The petition was filed by the girl's mother, seeking directions for her daughter's recovery. During Thursday's hearing, a division bench of Justice Sujit Narayan Prasad and Justice A.K. Rai sought a detailed status report from the state government and police authorities on the progress of the investigation.

Gujarat develops 70 urban gardens under AMRUT 2.0

GANDHINAGAR

As many as 70 gardens across Gujarat's municipal areas have been developed under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, with work on 61 more currently underway, as part of a wider plan to expand green cover and improve urban infrastructure, officials said on Thursday. According to official details, a total of 131 gardens are being developed in urban local bodies across the state at an estimated cost of Rs 117.56 crore. The initiative forms part of AMRUT 2.0, launched on October 1, 2021, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the objective of making cities water secure and self-reliant. The mission includes rejuvenation of water bodies, reduction of Non-Revenue Water and promotion of reuse of treated wastewater, alongside the development of green public spaces.

'India will refrain from hasty remarks on B'desh poll results'

Delhi reiterates support for free and fair polls amid reports of violence during voting

NEW DELHI

As voters across Bangladesh participated in the country's 13th parliamentary elections, India on Thursday said it would wait for the final results before making any assessment of the political situation.

Addressing the weekly media briefing in New Delhi, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), stated that India would refrain from premature comments.

The elections are going on in Bangladesh. We should wait for the outcome of the elections to see what sort of mandate has come out, and thereafter, we will look at issues that are there. On the election per se, you know what our position has been. We stand for free, fair, inclusive and credible elections in Bangladesh, Jaiswal said.

He also confirmed that India did not send election observers despite receiving an invitation from Dhaka. We did receive an invitation to send observers, but we have not sent our observers to Bangladesh to monitor the elections, he added while responding to media queries.

Meanwhile, reports from Bangladesh indicated incidents of violence at several polling booths during voting hours. According to local media, a political leader from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Mohibuzzaman Kochi, died following clashes at a polling station in the Khulna district.

The leading Bengali daily Jugantor reported that tensions flared near the Alia Madrasa polling centre between supporters of the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami soon after polling began early Thursday morning.

Former Khulna Sadar Thana BNP organising secretary Yusuf Harun Majnu alleged that Kochi was pushed during an altercation, resulting in a head injury after hitting a tree. He claimed the incident led to Kochi's death.

Confirming that tensions had arisen at the polling centre, Khulna Sadar Police Station Sub Inspector Khan Faisal Rafi said police intervened promptly to separate the rival groups. Emergency Medical Officer Partha Roy at Khulna City Medical College Hospital reportedly confirmed that Kochi was brought dead.

The incidents highlight a volatile security situation during the polls, even as India maintains a cautious stance and reiterates its support for democratic processes in Bangladesh.

2 undertrials escape from Raipur court, manhunt on

RAIPUR

Panic gripped the Raipur District Court complex in Chhattisgarh on Thursday after two undertrial prisoners escaped from police custody while being produced for a court hearing, raising fresh concerns over security arrangements in the state's judicial and prison systems.

The accused, identified as Rajesh Markandey and Tularam Markandey, were brought from Raipur Central Jail for routine proceedings. Both were in judicial custody facing charges of attempted murder and other serious offences. According to police officials, the duo managed to flee during the court process, allegedly exploiting a brief lapse in escort security.

Reports suggest that the prisoners were under supervision when they seized an opportunity to break free from the holding area or during transit within the court premises. Eyewitnesses described scenes of chaos as court staff, lawyers and security personnel scrambled to respond after alarms were raised.

Although the accused were reportedly handcuffed, they managed to slip away, possibly by overpowering or outmanoeuvring the accompanying constables. Senior police officers rushed to the scene immediately after the escape and launched a large-scale search operation.

Police teams from multiple stations, along with special squads, have been deployed across Raipur and adjoining areas. Checkpoints have been set up at major highways, bus terminals, railway stations and other key exit routes. Raids are being conducted at suspected hideouts and residences of known associates. Alerts have also been issued to neighbouring districts and bordering states.

An FIR under relevant sections pertaining to escape from lawful custody has been registered at the Civil Lines police station, and authorities said efforts to trace and arrest the fugitives are underway on a war footing.

The incident has once again spotlighted recurring security concerns in Chhattisgarh's correctional and judicial facilities.

In August 2025, a drug convict reportedly escaped during maintenance work, and similar breaches have been reported from districts such as Korba and Jashpur in recent years.

Observers have repeatedly pointed to overcrowding, understaffing and inadequate surveillance systems as systemic vulnerabilities contributing to such incidents.

ONOE does not violate Constitution's basic structure: Gavai

NEW DELHI

Former Chief Justice of India B. R. Gavai on Thursday told the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) examining the One Nation, One Election (ONOE) proposal that the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill does not violate the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The JPC, headed by BJP MP P. P. Chaudhary, is currently reviewing the Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024, and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

Making a detailed representation before the panel, Justice Gavai argued that the Basic Structure doctrine primarily safeguards the federal framework and the democratic form of governance. He maintained that neither of these foundational principles would be altered under the proposed simultaneous elections framework.

Through the enactment of this Bill, neither federalism nor democracy will be changed or affected. Hence, the amendment is in consonance with the Basic Structure, he told the committee. He further clarified that the ONOE proposal only seeks to alter the timing of elections and does not impact the structure of elections or voter rights.

The ONOE only brings about a change in the manner of conducting elections at one point. The structure of elections and voter rights remains the same. Thus, the amendment would be constitutional, he added.

Addressing questions regarding Parliament's legislative competence, the former CJI said the Constitution empowers Parliament to enact amendments necessary to synchronise elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. He emphasised that constitutional provisions permit such changes, provided they do not undermine core structural features.

On concerns about governmental accountability under a simultaneous election model, Justice Gavai asserted that mechanisms such as no-confidence motions would remain intact.

Therefore, he argued, there would be no dilution of accountability of either Union or state governments.

Highlighting historical precedent, he pointed out that India successfully conducted simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies until 1967, indicating that the model is constitutionally viable. The two Bills were introduced in December 2024 by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal and subsequently referred to the JPC.

Jharkhand HC grants relief to JPSC aspirants seeking age relax

RANCHI

The Jharkhand High Court has granted interim relief to 22 candidates seeking relaxation in the upper age limit for the Jharkhand Public Service Commission's (JPSC) 14th Civil Services Examination. Hearing a petition filed by Kishore Kumar and others on Thursday, Justice Ananda Sen directed the JPSC to accept the petitioners' applications, ensuring they are not excluded from the recruitment process.

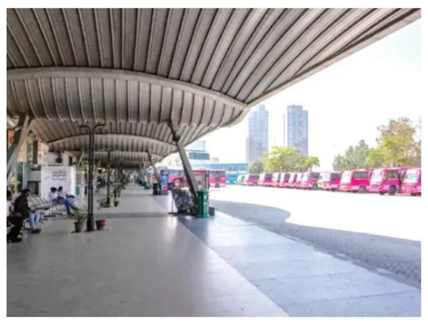
However, the court made it clear that the declaration of their results and any subsequent appointments will be subject to the final court order. The petitioners, represented by advocate Amritansh Vats, argued that under the 2021 Recruitment Rules, the Civil Services Examination is to be conducted annually. They contended that as a result of the irregular conduct of the examination, several candidates crossed the upper age limit, and no relaxation has been given to them.

The plea further pointed out that while the upper age limit was relaxed in the previous two examinations, the cut-off date for calculating the maximum age in the current examination has been fixed as August 1, 2026. According to the petitioners, this has made many candidates ineligible; however, the delay is purely due to the Commission.

BHARAT BANDH

Kerala comes to a halt, but some units linked to CPI(M) open

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM



While much of the country witnessed limited disruption during Thursday's Bharat Bandh, Kerala came to a near-total standstill, reviving debate over the state's bandh culture and allegations of selective enforcement, but some CPI(M)-linked units functioned at a few places in the state. Across districts, shops remained shuttered and public transport services were suspended.

KSRTC and private buses stayed off the roads, with only a handful of private vehicles, mostly two-wheelers, venturing out.

In several towns including Kalpetta, Bathery and Mananthavady in Wayanad, activists from both Left and Congress workers were seen blocking vehicles. In Kalpetta, a verbal altercation broke out between INTUC workers and a goods lorry driver, while a private bank that attempted to function was forced to close by AITUC activists.

However, reports from Mananthavady triggered controversy.

A factory owned by a CPI(M) area committee member, functioned as usual, with around 100 workers on duty.

The issue drew criticism, especially in light of allegations that establishments opened elsewhere in Wayanad were compelled to shut by party activists. The incident has reignited long-standing criticism that bandh calls in Kerala often translate into coercive shutdowns affecting daily wage earners, small traders and ordinary commuters, even when participation elsewhere in the country remains muted.

Though not referring to specific incidents, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor termed it an unfortunate irony that the Bharat Bandh effectively became a Kerala Bandh, arguing that the state continues to be held hostage by organised groups imposing shutdowns on the wider public.

LoP VD Satheesan voiced strong displeasure over the manner in which normal life and livelihoods are disrupted during such calls, stressing that political protests should not come at the cost of citizens' right to work and move freely.

With Kerala once again witnessing a complete shutdown while other states reported routine activity, the debate over protest methods and the balance between political expression and public inconvenience has returned to the centre of the state's political discourse.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is hereby given to the general public that my client Smt. Chethana Rajeev Nagarad Daughter of Sri. Rajaram Phonde and Wife of Sri. Rajeev Nagarad, propose to purchase agricultural land bearing Sy. No. 246, measuring 03 Acre 20 Guntas, situated at Melehalli Village, Kootgal Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District.

The above said property belongs to Sri. Naveen Nischal Gowda Chikkaveeraiah son of late Sri. Chikkaveeraiah @ Chikkiraiah. He acquired the same through a Registered Rights Release Deed dated: 24-02-2009, bearing Document No. RMN-1-05065/2008-09, CD. No. RMND89, Book-1, Registered on 24-02-2009 and Registered at Sub registrar office, Ramanagara and accordingly, the katha of the above said property is stood in his name.

If any person(s), banks, financial institutions, companies, heirs, authorities, or Government/Semi-Government bodies having any claim, right, title, interest, charge, lien, dispute, or objection in respect of the above said property are required to submit the same within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, with supporting documents, to the undersigned Advocate.

In the absence of any such claim or objection within the stipulated period, it shall be presumed that no claims exist, and my client will proceed with the purchase. My client shall not be responsible for any claims made thereafter.

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY:

The agriculture land bearing Sy. No. 246, measuring 03 Acre 20 Guntas, situated at Melehalli Village, Kootgal Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk and Bengaluru South District and bounded by: East: Kondi Halla. West: Land of Children of Byraiah son of Siddappa, North: Kondi Halla. South: Ankanahalli Road.

Contact Adress:
Sri. K.C. Madhu, Advocate,
K.C.M. Associates,
1st Floor, Society Building,
P.L.D. Bank Road, Opp. Old Bus Stand,
Ramanagara Town-562159.
Place: Ramanagara.
Date: 12-02-2026.

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Office of the Executive Engineer, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited,
Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9, Sira, Tumkur District -572137
Ph: 08135-200763 Email-ld-ubpee.9@gmail.com

No. VJNL/UBP/EE/Div No-9/Sira/Tender Notification-08/2025-26/1151 Date: 10-02-2026

KW-4 Tender Notification

On behalf of the Managing Director, Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Limited, Bengaluru, the under signed invites Tender on percentage basis for the Indent No.475 in Two cover system through e-procurement portal for amount ranges from **194.85 Lakhs.** Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 11.02.2026 to 25.02.2026** and Tender can be submitted till 2**5.02.2026. upto 5.00 pm.** Information of E.M.D, amount fixed for the work/class of contractor/ Tender Rules/Tender processing fee etc, can be obtained through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and information can also be obtained during the office hours of the under signed. The Technical bid will be opened on **26.02.2026 after 5.30 pm** in the office of The Executive Engineer, VJNL, Upper Bhadra Project Division No.9, Sira. Tender receiving officer reserves the right to reject the tender without assigning any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
VJNL, UBP, Division No.9,
Sira, Tumkur District.

DIPR/TUM/RO-259/25-26/Oysters

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara,
Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com,
Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./P.W.D./E.E./D.M./TND/E-Proc - 24/2025-26
Date : 12-02-2026

RE - TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Act 1999 Rules 2000 through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for **02 Number of Work Approved under Amrut 2.0.**

1) Last Date for Queries : 19-02-2026 upto 5.00 p.m. 2) Pre-Bid Meeting : 20-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 3) Last Date for Receipt of Tender : 23-02-2026 upto 4.00 p.m. 4) Date for Opening of Technical Bid : 25-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi. 5) Date for Opening of Financial Bid : 26-02-2026 at 11.00 a.m. in Office of the Commissioner, City Corporation Belagavi.

For more details visit online **Website : https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Any Addendum / Corrigendum will be published in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only.

Sd/- Commissioner,
City Corporation Belagavi.

DIPR/Belagavi/1833/Manipal/2025-26

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಮೃಗಾಲಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾ ನಗರ, ಇಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಗೂಡು, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: zoomysore@gmail.com | ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.mysorezoo.org

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಎಂವೈಜೆಡ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.02.2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಈ ಕಚೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು **1) ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–3ರ Indent No.143/25-26 Dt. 10.02.2026** ಅನ್ವಯ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು
ಶ್ರೀ ಚಾಮರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಮೃಗಾಲಯ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/1653/SA/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
BENGALURU URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYAT
Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road,
Banashankari (Near Banashankari Temple) Bengaluru-560070.

No.EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-1/40/2025-26 DATED 11.02.2026

KPPP Tender Notice (Single Cover System)

Tenders are invited through KPPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, For PMSHRI Grants Works. The work details can obtained from the KPPP Web Site The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before Dated:**27.02.2026** upto **4.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained from web site at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bengaluru Urban Dist, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/Shirdi Sai/5602/2025-26

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಬೃಂದಾವನ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಎಸ್.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570 020.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 0821–2512962, ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: dao.mysore09@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಜಿಆಕಮ್ಯೆ/61/ಹೊಗು/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.02.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ 2025–2026ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ **ಮಾನ್ಯತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ 31 ಜನ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ 'ಡಿ' ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ** ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ **ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ /ಚಿಕಿತ್ಸಾಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ** ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅವಧಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಯವರೆಗೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಅಪ್ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.02.2026ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಕಾಲಾವಕಾಶವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2026ರಂದು ಪೂರ್ವಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತವು **ರೂ. 75.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** (ರೂ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.1.50 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** (ರೂ. ಒಂದು ಲಕ್ಷದ ಐವತ್ತು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ)ಗಳನ್ನು ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಐ. ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಎದುರು, ಬೃಂದಾವನ ಬಡಾವಣೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು–20 ಇಲ್ಲಿಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆಯುಷ್ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

DIPR/MYS/1646/SA/2025-26

QUICK READ

Sanjay Raut questions probe into Ajit Pawar plane crash

MUMBAI

Amid the continuing political controversy over the fatal plane crash involving former Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday questioned the credibility of the ongoing investigation and echoed NCP (SP) legislator Rohit Pawar's allegations of foul play and sabotage. Addressing a press conference, Raut mounted a sharp attack on both central and state investigative agencies, alleging that they were functioning under political influence. The investigative agencies in this state and country have become compromised. Whether it is the ED, CBI, IB or even the state police, the public has lost all faith in them, Raut said.

SC cancels bail of husband accused in dowry death case

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has set aside a bail order granted by the Allahabad High Court to a man accused in a dowry death case, terming it as one of the most shocking and disappointing orders it has come across in recent times. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan allowed the appeal filed by the father of the deceased woman and directed the accused the husband of the deceased to immediately surrender before the trial court and be sent to judicial custody. The dowry death case was registered at Kotwali Bhinga Police Station in Uttar Pradesh's Shrawasti district for offences under Sections 85 and 80(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961.

Oppn protests in Assembly over 'crime, unemployment'

PATNA

The Bihar government on Thursday assured the Legislative Assembly that concrete and time-bound measures are being taken to permanently resolve land-related disputes in the state. Responding to a question raised by Barauli MLA Manjeet Singh, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Revenue and Land Reforms Vijay Kumar Sinha said that the government will not allow the land disputes to become a burden for future generations. The Deputy Chief Minister informed the House that the survey of unsurveyed lands is progressing rapidly, with a target to complete the process within the next two years. He said the government's priority is to first survey non-disputed land parcels so that accurate records can be created and potential disputes prevented in the future.

After 77 years, PMO leaves South Block for Seva Teerth

Seva Teerth has become the new power centre with PM Modi inaugurating the modern complex housing key ministries and top security institutions Friday

NEW DELHI

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is set to relocate from its historic British-era premises in South Block to a newly constructed complex named 'Seva Teerth' at Kartavya Path on Friday, in a major administrative transition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Seva Teerth complex along with Kartavya Bhavan-1 and Kartavya Bhavan-2, marking what officials describe as a transformative milestone in India's governance architecture.

Seva Teerth will house the Prime Minister's Office, the National Security Council Secretariat and the Cabinet Secretariat, bringing key decision-making institutions under one modern, integrated complex. Meanwhile, Kartavya Bhavan-1 and 2 will accommodate several major ministries, including Finance, Defence, Health & Family Welfare, and Education.

According to officials, the Prime Minister will first unveil the name 'Seva Teerth' at around 1:30 p.m., followed by the formal inauguration of the new buildings. He is also scheduled to address a public programme at the complex later in the evening.

The relocation reflects the government's broader vision of creating a modern, efficient and citizen-centric administrative ecosystem.

What is Seva Teerth and where is it located?

The Executive Enclave, officially named Seva Teerth, is located on Dara Shikoh Road, earlier known as Dalhousie Road, in the heart of New Delhi. The premises consist of three separate buildings designed to house the PMO, the Cabinet Secretariat, and the National Security Council Secretariat.

The new complexes are equipped with digitally integrated offices, structured public interface systems and collaborative workspaces aimed at enhancing efficiency, coordination and public engagement. Officials say the infrastructure has been designed to improve seamless governance while promoting employee well-being.

Built in accordance with 4-Star GRIHA standards, the complexes incorporate renewable energy systems, water conservation mechanisms, advanced waste management solutions and high-performance building envelopes to reduce environmental impact. Authorities state that these sustainability measures significantly enhance operational efficiency while lowering the carbon footprint.

Security and safety have also been prioritised. The complexes feature smart access control systems, integrated surveillance networks and advanced emergency response infrastructure to ensure a secure yet accessible environment for officials and visitors.

End of an era for South, North Blocks

The PMO has functioned from South Block since 1947. The North Block earlier housed the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry. These ministries have now moved to Kartavya Bhavan.

Kharge condemns caste bias after Odisha anganwadi boycott

Congress chief says discrimination denies children nutrition and violates constitutional values of equality.

NEW DELHI

Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha and Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday strongly condemned what he termed persistent caste-based discrimination in India, citing a disturbing case from Odisha where parents have boycotted an Anganwadi centre for three months because the helper-cum-cook is a Dalit woman.

According to Kharge, the boycott has effectively paralysed the functioning of the Anganwadi, depriving children of essential nutrition and early childhood education. He stressed that Anganwadi centres are designed to promote the physical and cognitive growth of children through government-supported nutrition and learning programmes.

Anganwadi is supposed to be a place for the physical and cognitive growth of children, Kharge said, expressing anguish that young students are being denied their rightful benefits due to caste prejudice. He criticised the discriminatory mindset of the protesting parents, asserting that children should not be made to suffer because of social biases held by adults.

Kharge emphasised that every child has a fundamental right to receive adequate nutrition under government welfare schemes aimed at combating malnutrition and supporting early development. He said that obstructing such services on caste grounds not only violates social harmony but also undermines constitutional principles of equality and dignity.

The Congress leader extended his criticism to similar incidents reported from other states. Referring to cases in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Chandigarh, Kharge highlighted episodes of caste discrimination that he said had led to tragic and alarming outcomes.

He cited an incident in Madhya Pradesh where a tribal labourer was subjected to humiliation, and another case involving a Dalit government employee in Gujarat who allegedly died by suicide amid workplace harassment and institutional bias. Kharge argued that such repeated occurrences reflect deep-rooted social inequities that require urgent intervention and stronger enforcement of anti-discrimination laws.

Calling for collective action, Kharge urged authorities to ensure strict implementation of constitutional safeguards and to promote social awareness campaigns aimed at eradicating caste-based discrimination. He maintained that inclusive governance and equal access to welfare schemes are essential for building a just and progressive society.

Lamborghini crash: Accused Shivam Mishra gets bail from Kanpur Court

KANPUR

Shivam Mishra, son of local tobacco baron K K Mishra, got bail from a court here on Thursday, hours after his arrest in connection with the high-profile Lamborghini crash that left several people injured on the VIP Road earlier this week.

After his arrest, the police produced him before the court of the Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate around 10 am, seeking 14 days' judicial custody. Anant Sharma, counsel for the accused, said the court did not allow it and instead granted him bail on a personal bond of Rs 20,000.

Verbal clashes, lighter moments mark debate on arsenic pollution

PATNA

A sharp exchange of words, interspersed with moments of humour, marked proceedings in the Bihar Legislative Assembly on Thursday during a discussion on alleged arsenic contamination in drinking water in parts of Patna district.

The debate was on claims of a contaminated water supply in the Danapur and Maner areas near Patna. Raising the issue, RJD MLA Bhai Virendra alleged that residents of his constituency were being supplied arsenic-tainted water, posing a serious threat to public health. He urged the government to take immediate corrective measures.

Responding to the allegations, Public Health Engineering Department Minister Sanjay Kumar Singh said the House that water samples collected from the areas on February 9 had been tested and found to be within the prescribed arsenic limits. He maintained that the government remains vigilant about drinking water quality and conducts regular testing across the state.

Bhai Virendra dismissed the minister's claim, alleging that incorrect information had been placed before the House. "I live in that area. The ground reality is different from what has been read out here," he said, seeking fresh testing of samples and prompt action.

'First-ever PM concern for J&K youth': Min shares girl's emotional remark in RS

NEW DELHI

Responding to the concerns of Jammu and Kashmir National Conference MP Chowdry Muhammad Ramzan, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment Shobha Karandlaje defended the government's initiatives, asserting that several schemes have been launched to bring young people to the forefront of employment opportunities.

To save Kashmir and bring the young people to the forefront is our aim, she said, sharing an anecdotal experience to illustrate changing perceptions.

She recounted how, during a flight, a girl from the region told her, "This is the first time ever in the history of the nation, a Prime Minister is thinking about the children of Jammu and Kashmir." The minister framed this as evidence of the Centre's renewed focus on the UT's youth under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

She highlighted progress under the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, revealing that 1,60,000 individuals from J&K have enrolled in EPFO within the last two years .

'Rs 29 cr spent on tourism promo in Jammu, Rs 27 cr in Kashmir in 2 years'

JAMMU

The Jammu and Kashmir government said on Thursday that it has spent over Rs 76 crore on tourism promotion in the union territory during the last two years, out of which over Rs 29 crore were spent in the Jammu division and over Rs 27 crore in the Kashmir division. The union territory government told the Legislative Assembly that the expenditure has been in the two divisions during the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Replying to a question raised by BJP MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the government said that in the Jammu division, an expenditure of over Rs 16 crore was incurred in 2024-25, while Rs 12 crore has been spent in 2025-26 so far. In the Kashmir division, the department spent over Rs 14 crore during 2024-25 and Rs 13 crore in the current financial year till January 2026.

The government said several initiatives have been undertaken to restore traveller confidence and increase tourist footfall across the union territory.

These include aggressive digital marketing, social media campaigns and publicity through print and electronic media.

The department has also participated in 10 national and international travel marts to showcase Jammu and Kashmir's tourism potential.

To generate positive publicity, Bollywood celebrities were invited for familiarisation (FAM) tours in the Jammu division between June 28-30 and July 2-6, 2025, during which they interacted with local stakeholders.

The government further informed the House that winter sports events were organised at Bhaderwah on January 17-18, 2026, while another event was scheduled at Sartal on February 8. A budget of Rs three crore has been sanctioned for the development of winter sports infrastructure at Bhaderwah and Basohli/ Sartal during 2025-26.

MOVE TO STRENGTHEN UNITY

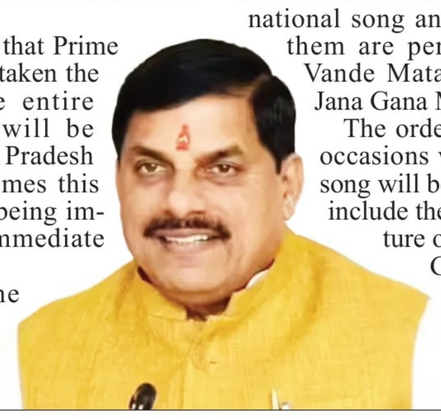
MP govt to implement Centre's order on 'Vande Mataram'

BHOPAL

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Thursday welcomed the Union government's directive concerning the national song Vande Mataram and the national anthem Jana Gana Mana, announcing that the order would be implemented in Madhya Pradesh with immediate effect.

Describing the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs as significant, Yadav said it would reinforce national unity and remind citizens of the sacrifices made during India's freedom struggle. In a message addressed to the people of the state, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry had decided that all six stanzas of Vande Mataram would be sung respectfully before the national anthem Jana Gana Mana at official events.

We are fortunate that Prime Minister Modi has taken the decision that the entire Vande Mataram will be sung. The Madhya Pradesh government welcomes this decision, and it is being implemented with immediate effect, Yadav said.



According to the Union Home Ministry's order dated January 28, the official version comprising all six stanzas of Vande Mataram shall be rendered at government functions. The directive clarifies that when both the national song and the national anthem are performed together, Vande Mataram will precede Jana Gana Mana.

The order outlines specific occasions where the national song will be performed. These include the arrival and departure of the President and Governors at official functions, before and after the President's address to the nation broadcast on radio and television, and during the unfurling of the national flag.

Additionally, Vande Mataram will be played at civilian award ceremonies such as the Padma awards and at events attended by the President during arrival and departure formalities. The directive also states that the national song may be played in public places, including cinema halls, although standing will not be mandatory in such cases. State officials indicated that necessary instructions have been issued to ensure smooth implementation of the directive across government institutions and official programmes in Madhya Pradesh.

QUICK READ

Former minister jailed in martial law case

Seoul

A South Korean court has sentenced former Interior Minister Lee Sang-min to seven years in prison for his role in ex-President Yoon Suk Yeol's failed attempt to impose martial law in December 2024.

The court found Lee guilty of supporting the insurrection by ordering police and fire agencies to cut power and water to media outlets critical of the government. He was also convicted of perjury during Yoon's impeachment trial. Lee, who denied the charges, has been in custody since August. He is the second former cabinet member jailed in connection with the martial law case.

Teacher killed in Thailand school shooting

Bangkok

A female teacher died after a 17-year-old opened fire at a school in Hat Yai district of southern Thailand. The victim, Sasiphat Sinsamosorn, who also served as the school director, was shot at Patongprathankiriwat School in Songkhla province. She underwent surgery but died early Thursday due to severe internal injuries and blood loss. A female student was also injured, though her condition remains unclear. Police said the teenager used a gun stolen from a police officer and has a history of substance abuse. Authorities have detained the suspect and are continuing their investigation.

Pentagon calls for equal NATO partnership

Brussels

The United States has called for a stronger partnership within NATO, urging European countries and Canada to increase military spending. U.S. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Elbridge Colby said higher defence budgets would help make allies more equal within the alliance. Speaking ahead of a NATO defence ministers' meeting in Brussels, he said 2025 showed a real commitment by Europe to lead conventional defence efforts. Colby stressed the need for a NATO built on partnership rather than dependency, describing it as a return to the alliance's original purpose of shared responsibility.

Prez Lee calls for tougher steps to stabilise prices

'Tracking unfair trade practices and structural issues in distribution system needed'

SEOUL

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung has called for urgent and preemptive steps to stabilise the prices of food and daily necessities ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday. He made the remarks after visiting a traditional market in Chungju and later during a meeting with senior aides at Cheong Wa Dae.

"Many people remain concerned about rising prices and weak sales," Lee said, stressing the need for quick government action. He directed a newly formed interagency task force to prepare short-term measures and closely monitor unfair trade practices such as price fixing and monopoly abuse.

The President also highlighted structural problems in the distribution process, especially in agricultural products like fruits and vegetables. He warned that strict action would be taken against companies found reselling imported goods at inflated prices despite reduced tariffs.

Lee further ordered a review of school uniform prices after reports showed average costs nearing 600,000 won (USD 417). With the school season approaching, he said prices must be checked for fairness.

Earlier this month, Lee urged officials to use all available measures to prevent companies from misusing monopolistic power. Prosecutors are currently investigating executives accused of fixing prices of essential goods, including flour, sugar, and electricity.

Canada shooting: Cops identify 18-yr-old girl as suspect

Canada police identify shooting suspect as 18-year-old Jesse Van Rootselaar; say the suspect had apprehended for a mental health assessment on more than one occasion

OTTAWA

Canadian police identified an 18-year-old woman as the suspect in a deadly school shooting in western Canada, calling it one of the worst mass attacks in the country's history.

Police said the accused, Jesse Van Rootselaar, had serious mental health issues and acted alone. Investigators said she first killed her mother and stepbrother at their home before going to her former school.

The shooting happened in Tumbler Ridge, a small town in British Columbia. Police later confirmed that the suspect died by suicide. Authorities revised the death toll to nine, including the shooter, after earlier reports said ten.

Officers said they reached the school within minutes of the first emergency call and faced active gunfire. Several people were injured, with two victims still in critical condition in hospital.

The attack shocked Canada, where school shootings are rare. Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed deep grief, postponed an overseas visit, and ordered flags on government buildings to fly at half-mast.

Local leaders said Tumbler Ridge is a close-knit community now united in mourning. Police said the motive remains unclear, and investigations are continuing to understand what led to the tragic violence.

Counsellors and support teams have been sent to help students, teachers, and families cope with the trauma. Vigils were held across the town, as residents shared prayers, tears, and messages of strength.

Officials urged calm, asked the public to avoid rumours, and promised a full, transparent inquiry. The tragedy has renewed calls for better mental health care and stronger safety measures to protect children and schools nationwide. Across Canada, communities stood together in grief and solidarity.

'Govt belonging to 180 million people will be formed in B'desh'

DHAKA

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Shafiqur Rahman on Thursday said his party hoped to form a government that truly represents the will of Bangladesh's 180 million people, provided the national elections are held in a free and fair manner.

He expressed confidence that voters would support Jamaat if the polling process remained peaceful and transparent.

Speaking to reporters after casting his vote at the Monipur High School and College polling centre in Dhaka, Rahman said all parties should respect the final verdict of the people. He added that the election should be free from violence, fear and force, and should be acceptable to citizens across the country. According to him, the goal was not to form a government for one family, individual or party, but for the entire nation.

Rahman said Jamaat-e-Islami was hopeful of gaining public support through democratic means and prayed for a calm election day. His comments came amid a closely watched election that could shape Bangladesh's political future.

However, the party has also come under criticism following allegations that it used religion and money to influence voters. Reports claimed that pamphlets were circulated in several areas, promising cash incentives of 15,000 Bangladeshi taka to families who voted for Jamaat-backed candidates.

The pamphlets reportedly assured voters that supporting the party would bring spiritual rewards, including freedom from sin in the afterlife. They also allegedly asked voters to take photographs of their marked ballot papers as proof of voting for the party's symbol.

It was further claimed that the promised money would be transferred through mobile payment platforms or paid in cash after election results were declared. Some voters were also allegedly offered advance payments.

Jamaat-e-Islami has not officially responded in detail to these allegations, while election authorities are closely monitoring the situation. The developments have added tension to an already sensitive election process in Bangladesh.

WhatsApp alleges Russia moving toward full ban

MOSCOW

WhatsApp has accused Russian authorities of trying to fully block its service to push users toward a state-backed messaging app called MAX. The Meta-owned platform said restricting access for over 100 million users would harm private communication and reduce safety. Some WhatsApp domains disappeared from Russia's national register, forcing users to rely on VPNs. Russian regulators had earlier limited the app, citing legal violations and security concerns. The Kremlin said dialogue was possible if Meta follows Russian laws. Meanwhile, officials promote MAX as a convenient public service tool, rejecting claims that it is meant for surveillance.

Mia Mottley secures third clean election victory

BRIDGETOWN

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley won her third national election on Thursday, achieving a historic clean sweep as her Barbados Labour Party captured every seat in the House of Assembly, according to state television reports.

The ruling party secured all 30 parliamentary seats, defeating opposition leader Ralph Thorne and leaving no representation for rival groups in the new legislature. Mottley, 60, has built one of the strongest international profiles among Caribbean leaders, earning wide support at home for her focus on economic reform, social justice, and global advocacy.

Kim signals daughter as possible North Korea successor

SEOUL

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to be taking clear steps to position his young daughter as his political successor, according to a briefing given to South Korean lawmakers by the country's spy agency.

Members of South Korea's National Intelligence Service (NIS) told lawmakers that Kim's daughter, believed to be named Kim Ju Ae, is now being treated as the internal successor to the leadership. Earlier assessments had described her as still being "in training," but officials now see her role as more advanced.

Lawmakers said Kim Ju Ae, who is believed to be in her early teenage years, is increasingly visible in state media and regularly accompanies her father to major public events. These include inspections of weapons projects and important national ceremonies. The NIS believes this growing presence suggests she may already be offering input on policy matters.

According to the briefing, Kim Ju Ae is currently seen as

the country's de facto second-highest leader. South Korean intelligence officials are closely watching whether she will appear at an upcoming meeting of the ruling Workers' Party later this month and whether she will be given an official title.

Analysts believe the party meeting could be significant, as it is expected to outline North Korea's future plans on the economy, defence, and foreign relations. Any formal recognition of Kim Ju Ae during the event would strongly signal a leadership transition.

The briefing also revealed that Kim Jong Un is personally directing the development of a large submarine that may carry up to 10 ballistic missiles.

Stir mar Israeli President's final Australia visit

MELBOURNE

Large protests marked the final day of Israeli President Isaac Herzog's visit to Australia, with thousands of pro-Palestine demonstrators gathering in major cities, especially Melbourne. The protests followed similar demonstrations in Canberra and clashes between police and protesters in Sydney earlier in the week.

In Melbourne, a large crowd assembled near Flinders Street Station in the heart of the city. Many protesters wore keffiyeh scarves and waved Palestinian flags while raising slogans against the Israeli President's visit. Police said around 5,000 people were expected to take part in the rally.

The protesters accused President Herzog of being responsible for civilian deaths in Gaza. They referred to a United Nations inquiry that accused Israel of serious human rights violations, allegations strongly denied by the Israeli

government. Protesters said they wanted the Australian government to take a stronger stand on the issue.

Neville Steer, a 69-year-old protester who travelled from a nearby suburb, said he joined the rally out of concern for people living in Gaza. Another protester, 20-year-old Elijah Fokkens, said he felt compelled to speak out after seeing images of destruction shared online.

Meanwhile, graffiti calling for harm to President Herzog appeared at a Melbourne university campus. The university said the matter had been referred to police and there was no proof linking it to the protests.

President Herzog, speaking to Australian media, said antisemitism in Australia was "frightening" but added that many Australians still supported peace and dialogue. He rejected claims that he was involved in genocide, calling them false. Later, while attending a Jewish community event, Herzog questioned the need for heavy police security. Earlier in Sydney, violent protests led to the arrest of 27 people after clashes between police and demonstrators.

The visit has sparked intense debate across Australia, highlighting deep divisions over the ongoing conflict in Gaza.

Russian air strikes cut power across Ukraine

KYIV

Russian drones and missiles hit Ukraine overnight, damaging energy systems and leaving thousands of people without power, heat, and water during freezing winter weather. Officials said the attacks struck several major cities, including Kyiv, Odesa, and Dnipro, causing injuries and serious disruption to daily life.

In the capital Kyiv, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said about 3,500 apartment buildings had no heating after the strikes. He said earlier attacks had already affected many homes, and the latest damage made conditions worse for residents. Energy company DTEK said more than 100,000 families lost electricity after one of its thermal power plants was hit.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched ballistic missiles, a cruise missile, and hundreds of drones. Most were shot down or disabled, but several targets were still hit. Two people were injured in Kyiv after a residential building was damaged.

In the southern port city of Odesa, officials said power cuts left nearly 300,000 people without water. Around 200 buildings also lost heating.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

	9		7		4		6	
5		7	6		9		4	1
4		6		5		9		
	1		3		8		2	
6		8	9				3	
7				1	6		9	8
	6	1	4			3		
3				6	7		1	4
8			2			6		

4	9	1	6	7	5	2	3	8
2	7	3	9	8	1	4	5	6
8	5	6	4	3	2	9	1	7
7	1	2	8	5	6	3	4	9
5	6	4	7	9	3	1	8	2
9	3	8	1	2	4	6	7	5
1	4	5	2	6	7	8	9	3
6	8	7	3	4	9	5	2	1
3	2	9	5	1	8	7	6	4

Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.

JAPAN DEMAND FADES

Russia, Thailand top choices for Chinese tourists

HONG KONG

Chinese tourists are preparing for a busy Lunar New Year holiday, with many choosing overseas trips to Russia, Thailand and Australia during the extended nine-day break starting February 15. Travel agencies say outbound tourism is rising as families take advantage of the longer festival period.

China expects a record 9.5 billion passenger trips during the 40-day Spring Festival travel rush, higher than last year's

9.02 billion. Thailand has emerged as the top destination, mainly due to its warm weather while most parts of China remain cold. Russia has also seen bookings more than double after Moscow introduced a visa waiver for Chinese visitors.

Travel to Australia has surged by over 100 percent compared to last year, according to booking platform Trip.com. International flight seat capacity has increased by nine percent, showing strong demand for foreign travel.

However, Japan has lost popularity amid political tensions and safety concerns. Flights between China and Japan have dropped sharply, with many routes cancelled compared to last year.

Experts say Chinese consumers are now prioritizing travel and experiences despite economic challenges at home. Warm beach spots like Hainan and snowy destinations such as Changbai Mountain are also popular within China during the festive season.

Mission Olympic Cell Extends Neeraj's SA Camp, Backs Combat Athletes

NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) has approved an extension of Neeraj Chopra's training stint in South Africa till April, while sanctioning significant financial and logistical support for taekwondo and karate athletes gearing up for the Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya this year.

Chopra, a two-time Olympic medallist, had begun his pre-season preparations in Potchefstroom in January with an initial 32-day clearance. The extension will now see him continue training in Pretoria before opening his competitive season at the Doha Diamond League in May. The decision was taken at the MOC's 168th meeting held on February 11, where proposals worth ₹1.70 crore were approved.

In a major push for combat sports, the Target Asian Games Group (TAGG) cleared ₹21.20 lakh for Asian Championship bronze medallist Rodali Barua to compete in five G2-level international taekwondo events, including the Bulgaria, Slovenia and Dutch Opens, besides the Oceania Championships and the Mount Everest International Open in Nepal. These tournaments offer vital ranking points for Olympic qualification. Support has also been extended to world No. 6 and Asian No. 1 Rupa Bayor for a nine-month physiotherapy and strength and conditioning programme.

In karate, bronze medallists Bhuvneshwari Jadhav and Alisha received funding for international competitions and coaching support. Jadhav will compete in events in Rome, China and Spain, along with a training stint in Tashkent under foreign coach Sulaymon Sharifovich. Financial assistance of ₹20.12 lakh has been sanctioned for her campaign, while ₹5.94 lakh has been earmarked for Alisha and her coach.

The MOC also approved assistance for squash player Anahat Singh and para-athletes Varun Bhati and Sandeep Chaudhary as part of its broader elite athlete support programme.

BCB Chief Eyes Ice-Breaker with BCCI at India-Pak Clash

DHAKA

Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Aminul Islam will be in Colombo on February 15 to witness the marquee India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash, expressing hope that the occasion could help thaw recent tensions with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Aminul Islam hopeful of dialogue during high-profile Colombo encounter

Islam said that he has been invited by the International Cricket Council (ICC), which wants representatives of the five Asian member nations — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Afghanistan — to attend the match together. The move is being viewed as an attempt to foster dialogue among key stakeholders following weeks of strain.

"You can consider it as something like that," Islam said when asked whether the meeting could serve as an ice-breaker with the BCCI.

Relations between the two boards deteriorated after the BCCI ordered the release of Bangladesh pacer Mustafizur Rahman from his IPL contract with Kolkata Knight Riders, citing unspecified "developments all around." The decision triggered speculation amid reports of political unrest in Bangladesh. Subsequently, the BCB declined to send its team to India for the T20 World Cup, citing security concerns. However, the ICC assessed the threat perception as low to moderate and rejected Bangladesh's reservations. The standoff resulted in Bangladesh being replaced by Scotland in the tournament, prompting further diplomatic ripples, including a brief boycott call from Pakistan before it was withdrawn.

In a conciliatory development, the ICC chose not to penalise Bangladesh and allotted the country an ICC event in the 2028–2031 cycle.

Islam said the BCB plans to formalise assurances through a detailed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the ICC to avoid future ambiguities. "The agreement will be line by line, so that there is no uncertainty," he asserted.

1,342 Athletes Dropped From Khelo India over Performance, Doping: Mandaviya

NEW DELHI

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday informed the Rajya Sabha that 1,342 athletes have been removed from the Khelo India programme over the past three years due to below-par performance and doping violations.

In a written reply, the minister stated that while these athletes exited the flagship grassroots development scheme, 2,905 new athletes were inducted during the same period. Currently, more than 23,000 athletes across the country are being trained and supported under Khelo India.

"A total of 1,342 athletes have exited the programme during the last three years due to performance below the prescribed benchmarks and involvement in doping violations," Mandaviya said. He added that performance benchmarks are revised annually and updated periodically on the Khelo India website. Athlete performance is evaluated through structured protocols and assessment camps.

The induction and exit process is overseen by the Talent Identification and Development Committee (TIDC), which follows an established system that includes performance reviews and monitoring camps.

Launched in 2017, Khelo India aims to identify and nurture sporting talent at the grassroots level. Several elite athletes, including double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker, have emerged from the programme.

Addressing concerns over doping, Mandaviya reiterated the government's commitment to ensuring clean sport. He said steps have been taken to strengthen the National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA) intelligence and investigative capabilities, including recruitment and training of specialised personnel.

The minister also highlighted increased coordination with the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and other law enforcement agencies to curb trafficking and misuse of performance-enhancing substances.

India has topped the World Anti-Doping Agency's list for the highest positivity rate in recent years, prompting intensified enforcement and monitoring efforts by authorities.

Top Seed Jay Clarke Crashes Out in Chennai Open Opener

CHENNAI

Top seed Jay Clarke endured a shock first-round exit at the Chennai Open ATP Challenger Men's International Tennis Championship 2026, going down in straight sets at the SDAT Tennis Stadium in Nungambakkam.

Clarke, ranked No. 183 in the ATP standings, made a confident start against Greece's Ioannis Xilas, racing to a 3-0 lead after an early break of serve. However, the 24-year-old Xilas responded impressively, breaking back and dictating rallies with composure to seal a 6-4, 6-4 victory and book his place in the next round.

In another first-round singles match, Indian qualifier Aryan Lakshmanan (ATP No. 1824) showed resilience in a tight opening set before falling 7-5, 6-2 to Poland's Maks Kasnikowski (ATP No. 419).

Second-round action saw India's Mukund Sasikumar take the first set against Kazakhstan's Denis Yevseyev, only to lose momentum and bow out 3-6, 6-2, 6-3. Yevseyev advanced to the quarter-finals alongside second seed Federico Agustin Gomez of Argentina, who defeated Italy's Lorenzo Carboni 6-3, 6-4.

There was better news for Indian players in the doubles draw. Top seeds Niki Kaliyanda Poonacha and Pruchya Isaro eased past Sai Karteek Reddy Ganta and Digvijaypratap Singh 6-4, 6-2 to reach the quarter-finals. Second seeds Saketh Myneni and Siddhant Banthia staged a strong comeback to overcome Yevseyev and Eric Vanshelboim 2-6, 6-1, 10-2 in the match tie-break.

Wildcard pairs Lohithaksha Bathrinath/Abhinav Sanjeev Shanmugam and Ishaque Eqbal/Manish Sureshkumar also progressed to the last eight.

MESSI HAMSTRING STRAIN CASTS SHADOW OVER INTER MIAMI OPENER

FORT LAUDERDALE

Inter Miami's preparations for the new Major League Soccer season have been jolted after talisman Lionel Messi was diagnosed with a strained left hamstring, putting his availability for the club's opening fixture in doubt.

The reigning MLS Cup champions confirmed the development, stating that Messi's return to full training will depend on his clinical and functional progress over the coming days. The Argentine superstar, who is also the league's back-to-back Most Valuable Player, picked up the injury during a preseason friendly in Ecuador last weekend.

Messi had scored in the match but was substituted around 12 minutes into the second half, with the early exit now understood to have been precautionary due to discomfort in his left hamstring.

Inter Miami are scheduled to begin their title defence against Los Angeles FC on February 21, and the uncertainty surrounding Messi's fitness presents a significant concern for the Florida-based club.

His presence has been central to Miami's resurgence, both in terms of performances and commercial appeal, since joining the MLS side.

The injury has also disrupted the club's preseason schedule. What was initially intended to be their final warm-up match will now take place after the league opener. Inter Miami are set to face Ecuadorian club Independiente del Valle in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, on February 26, with an open training session also planned during the trip.

While the club has not indicated the severity of the strain, hamstring injuries can require careful management to prevent recurrence. With the season fast approaching, Miami's medical staff will be closely monitoring Messi's recovery timeline.

Anish Bhanwala Bags Bronze in 25m Rapid-Fire at Asian Championships

CHENNAI

Olympian Anish Bhanwala secured a bronze medal in the men's 25m rapid-fire pistol event at the Asian Shooting Championships in New Delhi, while Kazakhstan stamped its authority with a haul of four gold medals.

Anish, a former world championship silver medallist, registered his third medal at the continental meet with a composed performance in a high-quality final. He and compatriot Adarsh Singh scraped into the eight-man final, taking the seventh and eighth qualifying spots with scores of 574 and 573 respectively. Kazakhstan's former champion Nikita Chiryukin topped qualification with 582, leading three shooters from his country into the medal round.

The final, featuring eight series of five rapid-fire shots, began at a blistering pace. Japan's Dai Yoshioka, Anish and Chiryukin were quick off the mark, while Vietnam's Vu Tien Nam and Kazakhstan's Artemiy Kabakov were the first to be eliminated. Adarsh exited after the fourth series with 11 hits. After six series, Anish was tied for the lead with Yoshioka and Chiryukin at 21 hits.

However, two hits in the seventh series proved costly as Yoshioka fired a perfect five and Chiryukin managed four, pushing the Indian to bronze with a total of 23 hits. Yoshioka went on to claim gold with a world and Asian record score of 31, while Chiryukin took silver with 28.

Nottingham Forest Sack Sean Dyche after 114-Day Tenure

NOTTINGHAM

Nottingham Forest have dismissed head coach Sean Dyche, making him the club's fourth managerial casualty of a turbulent Premier League season.

Dyche was relieved of his duties following a frustrating goalless draw against bottom-placed Wolverhampton Wanderers. The result left Forest just three points above the relegation zone and extended a poor run of form that has seen the club win only two of their last 10 league matches.

"Nottingham Forest Football Club can confirm that Sean Dyche has been relieved of his duties as head coach," the club said in a brief statement on Thursday. "We would like to thank Sean and his staff for their efforts during their time at the club and we wish them the best of luck for the future."

Dyche's stint lasted just 114 days, during which he struggled to steady a side that has been plagued by instability off the pitch.

Forest's inability to capitalise on multiple scoring opportunities against Wolves proved to be the final straw for the club hierarchy.

The upheaval began earlier this season when Nuno Espirito Santo, who had guided Forest to a seventh-place finish last term, was sacked in September despite signing a new three-year deal in June 2025. His relationship with owner Evangelos Marinakis reportedly deteriorated rapidly.

Former Tottenham manager Ange Postecoglou replaced Nuno but lasted only 40 days, dismissed shortly after a 3-0 defeat to Chelsea.

Forest's recent slump also included an FA Cup exit to Championship side Wrexham, compounding fan frustration. With the club hovering dangerously close to the drop zone, the search for yet another manager begins as Forest attempt to salvage their Premier League status.

Jhared Hack Extends Bogey-Free Run to Lead DP World Players Championship

NEW DELHI

American golfer Jhared Hack continued his sparkling form to seize the halfway lead at the INR 1.5 crore DP World Players Championship 2026, carding a flawless seven-under 63 in the second round at the Qutab Golf Course.

Hack, who opened with a 64, moved to 13-under 127 after 36 holes, climbing two spots from his overnight tied third position. Fresh from his victory at the PGTI season-opener in Naya Raipur last week, the Las Vegas-based professional battled through physical discomfort but maintained a bogey-free card for the second successive day.

The 36-year-old was particularly impressive on the back nine, where he picked up five birdies. His round featured a near eagle from 30 feet and a 15-foot conversion. Though quieter on the front nine, Hack finished strongly with birdies on the eighth and ninth.

"I played solid golf and stayed patient. You need to create chances off the tee here because of the trees. I wasn't feeling my best physically, so it was about hanging in mentally," Hack said.

India's Honey Baisoya remained in second place at 12-under 128 after a steady 65. The seven-time PGTI winner mixed seven birdies with two bogeys and showed resilience after back-to-back dropped shots on the 14th and 15th, bouncing back with late birdies.

Jamal Hossain stood third at 11-under 129, while Tapendra Ghai, Dhruv Sheoran, Veer Ahlawat and Amardeep Malik were tied fourth at eight-under 132.

The cut was set at one-over 141, with 56 professionals progressing to the final two rounds.

PGTI CEO Amandeep Johl highlighted the significance of cut day, calling it a true test of consistency, patience and adaptability under pressure — qualities essential for competing on the international stage.

QUICK READ

Black Box reports revenue growth in Q3 FY26

Mumbai

Black Box Limited, a leading digital infra solutions provider, announced its unaudited financial results for the quarter and nine months ended December 31, 2025. The Company delivered sustained growth, with improvements across revenue and operating profit, driven by broad-based performance across its key markets. With its transformation program now stabilized and a focused go-to-market architecture in place, the Company continues to advance toward revenue acceleration and a higher-quality business mix. Supported by growing order wins, expanding backlog, improved execution and deepening client relations.

Polio drive in merged Pak districts falls short

New Delhi

Nearly one million children were missed and more than 53,000 families refused vaccination during Pakistan's latest nationwide polio campaign, raising serious concerns about the effectiveness of eradication efforts, a report has said. While health officials report that over 44 million children were vaccinated and overall coverage reached 98 per cent, experts warn that even a small gap is dangerous in a country that still carries the poliovirus. According to campaign data, around 670,000 children were marked as 'not available at home.' Health specialists say this explanation is difficult to justify, as children who are not at home are usually present in public places such as schools, markets or parks.

HAL's Q3 profit jumps nearly 30% to Rs 1,867 cr

Mumbai

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Thursday reported a strong financial performance for the December quarter of the current financial year (Q3 FY26) as the defence public sector company posted a 29.6 per cent year-on-year rise in its consolidated net profit. HAL's profit after tax for the quarter stood at Rs 1,866.66 crore, compared to Rs 1,439.79 crore in the same period last financial year (Q3 FY25), according to an exchange filing. The company's revenue from operations also increased during the quarter, rising 10.65 per cent year-on-year to Rs 7,698.80 crore in Q3 of FY26. Along with the quarterly results, HAL's Board of Directors announced a first interim dividend for FY26.

India gains access to 70% of global GDP: Goyal

Nine FTAs have been finalised, covering 38 countries with strong per capita incomes, and offering zero-duty access to most developed global markets

NEW DELHI

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday announced that India now enjoys market access to nearly 70 per cent of global GDP, with domestic products entering most partner countries at zero duty.

Addressing an industry event, the minister highlighted the rapid expansion of India's trade network through a series of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) concluded over the past three years.

According to Goyal, nine FTAs have been finalised recently, covering 38 countries with strong per capita incomes. These agreements include major developed markets such as the 27-nation European Union bloc, the four-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA), the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States of America.

He also noted that agreements with Japan and South Korea were concluded earlier, along with trade arrangements involving Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries.

The minister urged Indian medtech startups to capitalise on these expanded trade opportunities and look beyond the domestic market. Emphasising that India's trade agreements now cover a substantial share of global GDP, he encouraged innovators to scale up affordable and high-quality medical technologies to serve both domestic and international markets.

Goyal underscored that affordable and scalable medical technologies have the potential to reach even the remotest regions of India while also tapping global markets across Africa, Latin America, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and developed economies. He advised startups to actively participate in international trade fairs and exhibitions to enhance their global visibility.

Reassuring entrepreneurs of government support, Goyal said the Commerce Ministry would assist delegations and that India's diplomatic missions in over 190 countries stand ready to help innovators access overseas markets. He further encouraged collaboration with multinational companies operating in more than 100 countries to facilitate entry into developed economies.

Highlighting progress within the sector, the minister pointed out that several startups present at the programme had already secured approvals from India's drug regulator and some were close to obtaining US regulatory clearances, paving the way for international expansion.

Key points

- 9 FTAs concluded in 3 years
- Covers 38 high-income countries
- Medtech startups urged to target global markets
- Support from 190+ Indian missions abroad
- Focus on affordable, scalable innovations

DAC makes 3.25L cr bet on 114 Rafale fighter jets

Major push to air power as India approves large-scale Rafale acquisition ahead of Macron visit.

NEW DELHI

In a significant boost to the Indian Air Force (IAF), the Defence Ministry on Thursday approved a Rs 3.25 lakh crore proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets from France, according to reliable sources.

The clearance was granted by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, which accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to the ambitious programme. The approval comes just ahead of French President Emmanuel Macron's forthcoming official visit to New Delhi, underscoring the strategic depth of India-France defence ties.

Following the Defence Ministry's nod, the proposal will now require final clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under the proposal, India will acquire 18 Rafale jets in fly-away condition from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation, while the remaining 96 aircraft will be manufactured in India. Some of these will be twin-seater variants intended for training purposes. The deal is expected to include the transfer of advanced fighter jet technology and the establishment of a strategic partnership aimed at strengthening the government's 'Make in India' initiative.

The IAF currently operates 36 Rafale jets across two squadrons, with the final delivery of the 'C' variant completed in December 2024. Additionally, India has placed an order for 26 Rafale 'M' naval variants for the Indian Navy in a separate Rs 63,000 crore deal. These carrier-based fighters will operate from INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. The naval contract also covers maintenance, logistics support, and training under a comprehensive MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) arrangement.

The Rafale jets have already demonstrated operational capability during Operation Sindoor, where they were deployed to strike precision targets in Pakistan in response to the Pahalgam terror attack last year. Equipped with advanced weaponry, the aircraft can deploy the SCALP air-launched cruise missile capable of striking hardened targets over 250 km away. They also carry Meteor long-range air-to-air missiles, Hammer stand-off precision-guided weapons, and the Spectra electronic warfare suite, along with advanced radar and targeting systems.

Highlights

- Valued at around Rs 3.25 lakh crore, the deal ranks among India's largest fighter aircraft procurements.
- This decision strengthens France's position as one of India's most reliable long-term defence partners.

The landmark takeover creates $2.5 trillion asset management giant amid accelerating global industry consolidation

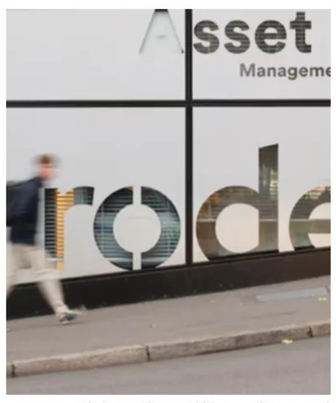
NUVEEN TO ACQUIRE SCHRODERS IN MAJOR $13.5 BILLION DEAL

LONDON

British investment manager Schroders is set to be acquired by U.S.-based asset manager Nuveen for £9.9 billion ($13.5 billion), marking one of Europe's largest-ever fund management deals and bringing to a close the independence of the 222-year-old firm.

The acquisition will result in a combined entity overseeing approximately $2.5 trillion in assets under management (AUM), significantly expanding Nuveen's global footprint. Following the announcement, Schroders' shares surged 29 per cent in morning trading, reflecting strong investor confidence in the transaction.

According to data from the London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), the deal represents the largest asset management acquisition on record across Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA). The transaction will also see the founding Schroder family exit ownership, signalling the end of an era for one of Britain's most historic financial institutions. Bill Huffman, Chief Executive Officer of Nuveen, described the agreement as a massive transformational step for both firms. Speaking to Reuters, he said the takeover would enhance Nuveen's international reach and strengthen its competitive positioning. Huffman added that Nuveen remains open to further acquisitions as part of its long-term growth strategy.



The deal underscores the rapid consolidation sweeping through the global asset management industry. Over the past decade, dominant U.S. investment giants such as BlackRock and Vanguard have expanded aggressively by offering low-cost index-tracking and passive investment products. Their scale and cost advantages have placed increasing pressure on smaller, actively managed investment firms.

Traditional active managers like Schroders have faced shrinking margins and intense competition as investors shift toward cheaper, passive funds. Analysts say the Nuveen-Schroders combination will help achieve economies of scale, diversify product offerings and strengthen distribution networks across key global markets. Industry observers note that the merger may trigger further consolidation in the sector, as mid-sized asset managers seek strategic partnerships to compete in an increasingly cost-sensitive and globally integrated investment landscape.

Bharat Forge's Q3 profit falls 17% to 288 cr

MUMBAI

Bharat Forge on Thursday reported nearly 17 per cent year-on-year decline in its standalone net profit for the quarter ended December 2026 (Q3 FY26).

On a standalone basis, the company posted a net profit of Rs 288 crore lower than Rs 346 crore reported in the same quarter last financial year (Q3 FY25), according to its stock exchange filing.

Standalone revenue from operations saw a marginal dip of 0.6 per cent to Rs 2,083.7 crore in Q3 FY26. On a consolidated basis, the performance was stronger. Revenue rose 25 per cent year-on-year to Rs 4,343 crore, compared with Rs 3,476 crore in the year-ago period.

Net profit increased 28.2 per cent to Rs 273 crore from Rs 213 crore in the corresponding quarter last financial year. The company said the quarterly numbers included a one-time cost of Rs 55.7 crore, which had an impact on margins.

Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) grew 20 per cent to Rs 750 crore from Rs 624 crore a year ago.

Unchecked public spending deepens Pak's IMF dependence

LAHORE

A structural failure to rein in public expenditure continues to anchor Pakistan's repeated dependence on the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to a critical analysis published in Dawn.

The article argues that spending at both federal and provincial levels has spiralled beyond sustainable limits, driven largely by unchecked salary increases for civil, judicial and military bureaucracies.

These pay hikes, it notes, have often far exceeded inflation. At the same time, government outlays on expanding vehicle fleets, luxury housing, plush office spaces, overseas trips and discretionary budgets have continued to rise — frequently without clear mandates, sunset clauses or measurable performance benchmarks.

According to the report, public spending routinely surpasses revenues not because of productive state investment but due to a lack of fiscal discipline. The federal and provincial governments collectively function as vast employment bureaus. Despite the devolution reforms introduced through the 18th Amendment, Islamabad still maintains more than 40 divisions and over 400 attached departments, employing around 1.2 million people.

The analysis highlights that the creation of new departments, authorities and special units each with full secretariats and associated perks — has become increasingly easy. It suggests that trimming the federal administrative structure by nearly two-thirds, along with imposing an immediate hiring freeze, would be necessary to restore fiscal balance. However, entrenched bureaucratic and political resistance continues to protect positions of authority and block meaningful reform.

State-owned enterprises (SOEs) are described as another major drain on the exchequer. Their accumulated losses have reportedly crossed Rs 6 trillion, increasing by nearly Rs 1 trillion annually despite repeated bailouts through grants and equity injections.

The article criticises the government for rushing projects to gain political visibility, often with superficial cost-benefit assessments, weak feasibility studies and little regard for long-term operational costs. The result, it argues, is a landscape of half-finished projects, mounting liabilities and widening financial gaps that are ultimately bridged through additional debt or inflationary financing.

India's medical devices market likely to hit $50.1 bn by 2030

NEW DELHI

India's medical devices industry is projected to reach $50.1 billion by 2030 from $15.2 billion in 2025, at a compound annual growth rate of 26.9%, a report has said.

The report from Rubix Industry Insights attributed the growth to government initiatives such as the National Medical Devices Policy, Production Linked Incentive Scheme, Scheme for Promotion of Medical Devices Parks, and MedTech Mitra.

The report noted that medical devices exports reached $4.1 billion in FY25 while imports touched $8.6 billion, leaving 70-80 percent of domestic demand being met through imports, particularly for technologically advanced devices. Consumables accounted for around 47 per cent of exports between April September FY25, while electro medical equipment made up nearly 60 per cent of imports, the report noted.

India currently ranks as the fourth largest medical devices market in Asia and among the top 20 globally. The government aims to raise India's share in global market from 1.6 percent to around 12 percent in the coming years.

The US and Germany are the key export destinations, while the US and China are major import sources, the report further said.

Union Budget-FY27's had stressed the support for bio-pharma research in the country. The report also highlighted rising income levels, widening health insurance penetration, expansion of healthcare infrastructure and medical tourism growth, as drivers of affordable mass-use devices and advanced solutions for specialised care.

The domestic manufacturing base comprises about 800 manufacturers, while private equity and venture capital deal sizes have risen from $56 million in 2022 to $137 million in 2024.

TRUMP-XI TRADE TRUCE

US trade detente fuels mothballing of key China tech curbs

BEIJING

The administration of Donald Trump has reportedly shelved several major technology security measures targeting China ahead of an anticipated April meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, according to sources familiar with the matter.

Among the measures put on hold is a proposed ban on the U.S. operations of China Telecom, as well as restrictions on the sale of Chinese equipment used in American data centers. Sources indicated that the decisions were part of a broader effort to prevent fresh friction between the two economic superpowers.

The U.S. has also paused proposed bans on domestic sales of routers manufactured by TP-Link and on the U.S. internet operations of China Unicom and China Mobile. Additionally, another measure that would have barred the sale of Chinese electric trucks and buses in the United States has been placed on hold, according to four individuals familiar with the developments.

These decisions, which have not been previously reported, are seen as part of a broader recalibration of U.S. policy toward Beijing following a trade truce reached last October. During that meeting, Trump and Xi agreed to ease escalating trade tensions, with China pledging to delay export restrictions on rare-earth minerals critical to global technology manufacturing.

The rare-earth sector plays a vital role in producing semiconductors, electric vehicles, defense equipment and other advanced technologies. Any restrictions could have significantly disrupted global supply chains.

While critics argue that postponing the measures could expose national security vulnerabilities, the U.S. Commerce Department defended the administration's approach. In a statement, the department said it is actively using its authority to address national security risks posed by foreign technology and would continue to do so when necessary.

'Homegrown NavIC helping in real-time tracking of 10,400 trains'

NEW DELHI

Real-time train tracking is operational on over 10,400 locomotives and over 40,000 fishing vessels have been equipped with NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) receivers for tracking and emergency alerts, the Parliament was informed on Thursday. Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha that the commercial and public utilisation of NavIC has seen significant growth over the past years.

More than 60 mobile handset models from major global manufacturers support positioning with NavIC. To strengthen the constellation, ISRO is in the process of launching the NVS series (NVS-03, NVS-04, and NVS-05) of second-generation satellites, the minister informed.

He said disaster alerts and personal distress connectivity is provided through GSAT and NavIC/GAGAN systems.

Everyone wants this song release!

Bengaluru-based young entrepreneur Nahesh Poll, with the desire to contribute something to the Kannada film industry, hopes to give a beautiful cinematic experience to movie lovers through the film 'Everyone Wants This'.

He is producing, composing, directing and acting as the lead in this film under the banner of his own Radical Concepts Studios. Cinematography and choreography are by Sagarmurthy, executive producer K.Balasubramaniam, art by Deepika Machmonda, and costume by Sridharveer.

As the first step of the promotion, the song release program was held at Sri Renukamba Studio. Speaking on the occasion, the director said that we aim to produce three films by 2026. The current film is ninety minutes long. NeheshPoll informed that when a diamond is robbed for the sake of money, the disasters that follow are being shown in a comedy and thriller style with entertainment.

Akshara Suresh has written the story for the heroine and the film and is recognized as the creative director. According to her, this is a love song, and lyrics in Kannada, English, Hindi, Telugu and Tamil languages have been used. There will be a total of six songs. The shooting is done like paper work and the editing is done there together, which saves time. In the concept of 'entertainment everywhere', we have a state-of-the-art projector, 50 headphones and our intention is to show the film to people at a low price, he demonstrated everything in front of the media. Akshara Suresh paused to say that the rest of the details of the cast will be given in the coming days.

In the 3.4 minute song, the hero and heroine appeared in costumes according to the languages of their respective states, which attracted attention.

Star trailer release

It was special when the trailer of the film 'Star', prepared by newcomers, was unveiled by Ramesh, a security guard of Sri Renukamba Preview Talkies. Sharath Prakash has produced it under the banner of Lion Creations and has also acted as Hero. Vijayasurya has written and directed the story. The tagline will be 'Bhoomige Hatra'.

Sharath Prakash, Rajatraksha and theatre artists have acted. Vikas Vasishtha has composed music for three songs. Cinematography is by APSK, background sound is by Vinumanasu, editing is by Shashidhar.P, digital promotion is by Pawan Kumar.

Speaking later, the producer said that my father Prakash had appeared as a fighter in films since the time of Dr.Rajkumar films. Many opportunities came after I became the winner in 'Pyate Mandi Kaadige Bandaru' Season-2. So far, I have played small roles in 25 films but have not gotten a break. I liked the one line that the director said. Apart from rowdiness, the father-daughter relationship, mother-daughter relationship, and love will all come together to entertain the audience, said Sharath Prakash.

Although he is a rowdy, his behavior melts like butter in front of me, what will happen next when he becomes a weapon for the opponent? The story will be turned around through me. The heroine Rajataraksha says that she will have unpredictable roles.

Priyanka Chopra sparks buzz around next James Bond film

Priyanka Chopra Jonas has once again sparked speculation, this time about a possible role in the next James Bond film, the actress teased the project, saying it could be truly global now following Amazon MGM's acquisition of creative control over the 007 franchise.

Speaking cautiously, she added, I'd be really curious to see what lane they pick, prompting fans to flood social media with excitement. Many commented on the possibility of Priyanka joining the Bond universe, while some expressed hope that she could work under director Denis Villeneuve, who is helming the next installment. The discussion comes shortly after Priyanka hinted at a possible return to the iconic Indian Don franchise, in which she starred opposite Shah Rukh Khan. While she remained noncommittal, saying, I don't know if I can talk about either of them at all, co-star Mahesh Babu playfully suggested that something is happening.

There are no official casting announcements yet for either project. Priyanka's ongoing collaboration with Amazon, including her work on Citadel and the upcoming action thriller Heads of State, reportedly fueled the speculation about her potential appearance in Bond 26. She will also star in The Bluff, set for digital release on February 25.

The next James Bond film is being directed by Denis Villeneuve, known for the Dune franchise. While other actors like Richard Madden and Jacob Elordi have been linked to the 007 role, no official confirmations have emerged.

Sweekriti alleges harassment after Allu Arjun video row

A controversy has erupted after a video about actor Allu Arjun went viral online. In the video, brand strategist Kaveri Baruah claimed that the actor's team had given her a list of 42 dos and don'ts before a meeting. The video was shared on the Sweekriti Talks podcast and quickly gained attention on social media.

Kaveri said that before meeting the Pushpa star, she received strict instructions. She claimed the list included rules such as not looking into the actor's eyes and not shaking his hand. She also said that South Indian stars often travel with large teams and multiple managers.

After the video spread widely, many social media users criticised Allu Arjun. Soon after, the actor's team released an official statement. They called the claims completely baseless and untrue. The statement said that Allu Arjun has always behaved with dignity and respect.

SHANAYA KAPOOR calls 'Tu Ya Main' destiny project

Actor Shanaya Kapoor says it was destiny that brought her to her second film, the survival thriller Tu Ya Main. The film features her as a social media influencer named Avani. Shanaya said she felt an instant connection when she read the script and thanked casting director Mukesh Chhabra for giving her the chance to audition.

Shanaya made her debut opposite Vikrant Massey in Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan. Though the film did not perform well at the box office, she said watching herself on the big screen was a special and proud moment. She added that she did not focus on numbers but valued the experience of seeing her first film in theatres.

In Tu Ya Main, Shanaya stars alongside Adarsh Gourav. The story follows two influencers on a romantic getaway that turns dangerous when they get trapped in a swimming pool with a crocodile. The film is directed by Bejoy Nambiar and will release in cinemas on February 13. To prepare for her role, Shanaya watched survival thrillers such as Jaws, Crawl, and The Meg. She also attended acting workshops with coach Atul Mongia. Inspired by the movements of a black panther, she worked on bringing grace, confidence, and intensity to her character. Produced by Aanand L Rai, Himanshu Sharma, and Vinod Bhanushali, the film marks an important step in Shanaya's growing career.

Christian group objects to Yash film Toxic teaser

The teaser of Yash's upcoming film Toxic: A Fairytale For Grown-Ups has landed in fresh trouble after a Christian organisation raised objections. According to reports, the National Christian Federation has filed a formal complaint, saying some visuals in the teaser hurt the sentiments of the Christian community.

The group has claimed that the teaser shows Christianity in a negative way. In its complaint, it pointed to scenes where Saint Michael the Archangel is shown in what it called a disrespectful manner. The organisation said Saint Michael is a holy and respected figure, and such portrayal is unacceptable.

The group also described certain visuals in the teaser as objectionable and obscene. It said these scenes appear close to images of angels, which makes them more offensive. The complaint has been sent to the Film Chamber of Commerce, the Chief Secretary, the Home Secretary, and the Central Board of Film Certification. The federation's president, Pradeep Kumar, filed the complaint.

The organisation has demanded that the makers remove the scenes from the teaser and delete them from YouTube and other online platforms. It has also asked the film's team to issue a public apology to the Christian community. The group warned that it would take legal action if the content is not removed.

Earlier, a women's wing of a political party had also filed a complaint, claiming the teaser contained obscene visuals. Directed by Geethu Mohandas, Toxic is now facing increasing pressure ahead of its release.

Fahadh Faasil to make cameo in 'Idhayam Murali'

The makers of Idhayam Murali, the upcoming film from the team behind Parasakthi, have announced that Mollywood star Fahadh Faasil will appear in a cameo role. The news was shared through a special announcement video, generating fresh excitement for the project. Idhayam Murali stars Atharvaa in the lead role and is directed by Aakash Baskaran. The film is described as a romantic coming-of-age drama. Alongside Atharvaa, Kayadu Lohar and Preity Mukhundhan play the female leads, with Natarajan Subramaniam and Niharika NM in important supporting roles. Thaman S is composing the music and also appears in a key role.

The film is currently in production, with shooting progressing steadily. While the makers have not yet confirmed an official release date, the movie is expected to hit theatres sometime in 2026. The announcement of Fahadh Faasil's cameo has created buzz across fans of both Tamil and Malayalam cinema, adding star power to the film. With a combination of a youthful cast, a celebrated music composer, and an experienced director, Idhayam Murali is being closely watched as one of the promising releases in 2026.

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